

Hafa Adai!

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ON APPLICATIONS FOR PERMANENT STATUS IN THE MARIANAS

Kilili: USCIS' decision will be on 'case-by-case' basis

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will decide each application for permanent status in the Marianas on a case-by-case basis to see if the applicant meets the Long-Term Residents Relief Act criteria listed by USCIS, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan over the weekend.

We recommend that anyone who thinks they may be eligible submit an application to USCIS

DEADLINE: Aug. 17, 2020

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for clarification on the USCIS announcement last Thursday, Sablan emphasized that anyone who reads the criteria and thinks they may be eligible should immediately begin the application process.

"They only have until Aug. 17, 2020," Sablan said.

USCIS announced that the
See USCIS on Page 4

Administration welcomes 'good news'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Torres administration sees it as good news the announcement of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that it has opened the application period for the new CNMI long-term resident status.

In the midst of the economical struggles the CNMI government is currently facing, the announcement is "welcoming and beautiful news" for the CNMI, said press secretary

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Yoko wins PIC Duck Race



The crowd cheer for their ducks as the toys race for the finish line in Pacific Islands Club Saipan's 12th Annual PIC Duck Race for Cancer last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

Yoko bought a ticket worth one duck for the Pacific Islands Club Saipan's 12th Annual PIC Duck Race for Cancer last Saturday, and took

home \$2,500 when her duck won first place.

A total of 2,500 plastic ducks raced on the Lazy River of PIC, yet only four ducks made it to the finish line and won a prize. Accord-

See YOKO on Page 4

MARIANAS FESTIVAL OF HOPE

The outdoor stage of the American Memorial park is lit up against the early evening sky during the Marianas Festival of Hope last Friday, which was attended by an estimated 3,600 people.

BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELICAL ASSOCIATION

Story on Page 2



CUC not anticipating rolling blackouts

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Despite the austerity measures

being implemented not only in government but also in the private sector, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is not

expecting to implement any rolling blackouts on Saipan.

Rolling blackouts occurred 10 years ago because CUC

didn't have enough fuel, said CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho in response to Rep. Sheila Babauta's (Ind-Saipan) question during a

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INSIDE



LOCAL

The first naturalization ceremony of 2020 swore in 25 new U.S. citizens.

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ASIA

South Korea and China both reported a rise in new virus cases on Sunday.

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WORLD

Italy reported its first death from the new virus from China early Saturday.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Festival of Hope draws over 3,600 to AMP

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The American Memorial Park came alive in the early evening hours last Friday with an estimated 3,600 people attending the Marianas Festival of Hope, which featured Rev. Franklin Graham, who also leads relief organization Samaritan's Purse, which helped thousands of families on Saipan and Tinian recover from Super Typhoon Yutu.

Graham, son of well-known American evangelist Billy Graham Jr. and CEO of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association and Samaritan's Purse, said it was a privilege to share the Gospel with the people of Saipan at the Marianas Festival of Hope.

Graham's message centered on Mark 10:46, where blind Bartimaeus cried out for Jesus to heal him.

The 3,600 that attended the Festival of Hope at the AMP amphitheater does not include the 120 people from Tinian and Rota who watched the event live.

Before Graham stepped



Rev. Franklin Graham delivers his message of hope to the thousands who attended last Friday's Marianas Festival of Hope at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

onto the stage, there were a lot of performances, starting with Filipina singer Margarita

"ITS" Wahiman, who sang upbeat Christian songs.

Dennis Agajanian, dubbed

"The World's Fastest Guitar Picker" wowed the crowd with his guitar skills. Grammy award-winning artist Michael W. Smith played some of his biggest Gospel hits and many in the crowd sang along with him.

After Graham spoke about overcoming challenges and trials, the Tommy Coomes Band capped off the evening. The band played for more than an hour and even jammed with Agajanian.

Manuelito "Lito" Rey, the overall chairman of the local committee that organized the Marianas Festival of Hope and pastor of Cornerstone Church, was overjoyed with the successful turnout at the event.

"[There was] good weather, powerful preaching of the Gospel, amazing response of the crowd. I am grateful for the team effort exhibited by pastors, churches, committee chair and church members for the Marianas Festival of Hope," he said.

Marilou Arriola, chairwomen of the communications committee for Mari-

anas Festival of Hope, was also "extremely pleased" with the turnout.

"The committee and all the volunteers have worked tirelessly over the past nine months in planning and praying for this event. It was truly amazing and inspiring to see thousands of our people come for the festival. ...And what a joyous occasion to see every-

one celebrating and dancing to the great music from our musical guests."

Graham and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association flew immediately to Guam after the Marianas Festival of Hope as they organized the Guåhan Festival of Hope yesterday at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Deddo.

Subang leads Emon Lodge

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Emon Masonic Lodge 179 on Saipan installed a new set of officers last Saturday at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe, with Joel Subang taking the reins as the group's leader.

Also inducted were Leo P. Candeo as senior warden, Marvin Deocariza as junior warden, Romeo D. Malasarte as the secretary, Wilfredo G. Ching as treasurer, and Daniel E. Banez as the auditor.

The appointed officers are

Valentin T. Bolivar, Arnel A. Metran, Raul V. Abordonado, Christopher B. Manalo, Peter R. Cristostomo, Bobby Nelson S. Baldazo, Arvin Ian S. Sales, Eugene Morris, Fernando E. Enano, Monico T. Usi, Elias C. Buenaventura, Wendell M. Posadas, and Noel Ordas.

The organization mostly does charity work and helping the community. One of the recent projects is a bus stop in As Lito. Next up is a project to fix the clock at the top of Mount Carmel Cathedral that was destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu.



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Cannabis panel still working on medical aspect of regulations

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

With less than a month to complete the regulations that would govern the new cannabis industry in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Cannabis Commission is still working on the third and last part of the regulations—the medical aspect.

Attorney General Edward E. Manibusan is still reviewing the homegrown and the



Sablan

pleted and submitted for review.

Sen. Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), who chairs the newly created Senate Committee on Cannabis and Gaming, said in an interview Thursday that the commission is now finalizing the medical aspect of the industry.

The commission, chaired by Nadine Deleon Guerrero, have already submitted the draft homegrown and commercial regulations to Manibusan for review and comments.

According to law, all regulations must be completed by March 18.

“We haven’t gotten anything back yet from the AG. As soon as they finish their legal review, [the regulations] will return back to the commission. And that’s when it will become available to the public for review,” he said.

The other thing that is happening is that Rep. Marco T. Peter (R-Saipan) has introduced a bill to remove the hemp component from the Cannabis Act and place that under the regulatory authority of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, which is the agricultural arm of the government.

Last October, the House of Representatives unanimously passed Peter’s House Bill 21-55 House Draft 1 that allows the production of hemp in the CNMI. Hemp is a strain of cannabis that has relatively lower concentrations of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC—the main psychoactive chemical in cannabis.

Because hemp now is legal at the federal level, Sablan said that Peter’s bill will place it under the authority of the Division of Agriculture under DLNR. That would allow the CNMI to obtain some pos-

sible funding from the U.S. Congress, such as the Farm Bill that had been passed in Congress.

“Other than that, we don’t have any finalized regulations yet,” he said.

Until the final regulations

are published and in effect, that’s when the CNMI will see the commercial aspect, like how many dispensaries are

going to be around Saipan as well as on Rota and Tinian.

“That’s when we kind of see the emergence of the industry

as soon as the regulations are done,” the senator said.

When the regulations are
See CANNABIS on Next Page

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Efforts continue to repatriate stranded tourists

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

Not all stranded passengers of HK Express have gone home and the CNMI government continues its efforts to have the remaining Chinese tourists—about 40% of the original 130 passengers—repatriates, with the help of the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles.

Press secretary Kevin Bautista said the Torres administration continues to work on the matter. “We are doing our part to make sure that we take care of the tourists out here. So, we’ve been vigilant about it. Maybe in the [next] few weeks,” he said.

The stranded passengers were left behind following HK Express

Airways’ abrupt decision to suspend flights due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Bautista added that Torres is closely communicating with the Commonwealth Ports Authority, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, and the Chinese Consulate General to ensure the return of these stranded tourists.

“The governor has been in direct consultation with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Brian Humphries. The governor and CBP have managed this very closely with CPA. There are [also] plans right now, in consultation with the Consulate General office in LA, to make sure we take care of these tourists so we can send them back home,” he said.

YOKO

From Page 1

ing to Dennis Tababa, PIC director of Sports, Entertainment and Activities, the last names of the winners cannot be released due to privacy reasons.

Clark’s duck swam in second place for \$300, followed by third place Juni’s duck, scoring \$200, and in fourth place, Nojima’s duck, won \$50.

The concept is that members of the public sponsor a plastic duck for \$5 each and the toys are then released on PIC’s Lazy River, and the first one to cross the finish line after making one full circuit of the river wins. In all, PIC sold over 2,500 ducks. In total, PIC raised about \$12,500 which will

be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

According to Tababa, you don’t need to be present to win any of the prizes, which is why PIC’s support comes from all over the world from as far as Boston, Massachusetts, to Paris, Thailand, Japan, and more, just to buy ducks for the race in support of the CNMI Cancer Association.

One of the buyers, Frank Seo from Paris, has been supporting PIC’s Duck Race for 12 years and had been buying a total of 50 ducks every year in support of the CCA. Seo is also a former employee of PIC.

“The money that’s being raised just goes back to the community and the importance of the event is to just spread more awareness,”

USCIS

From Page 1

application period for those seeking the new CNMI long-term resident status opened last Wednesday, Feb. 19. Eligible aliens will have 180 days to apply for the new status, which was created by the NMI Long-Term Legal Residents Act, signed by President Donald J. Trump on June 25, 2019.

Sablan declined to respond to specific questions whether the USCIS announcement will cover only those 1,000-plus people who have been living and working in the CNMI under humanitarian parole, besides saying that, according to information that USCIS provided him when he was writing the Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act in December 2018, there are approximately 1,000 people in the Marianas who fit into the categories and who could be eligible.

“We recommend that anyone who thinks they may be eligible submit an application to USCIS,” Sablan said.

Ultimately, it will be USCIS that will make the final decision based on all the particular circumstances of each individual and the evidence they present, he said, adding that his office is not allowed to provide legal advice regarding anyone’s eligibility.

“I can say, however, that the announcement that USCIS is opening applications for CNMI resident status...is good news for everyone covered by the new law, for their families, and for their employers,” he said.

With CNMI resident status, people will be able to live and work in the

Marianas as long as they want, without having to worry about applying for humanitarian parole year after year.

“I want to emphasize, however, that the application window is only open for 180 days. So, everyone who thinks they may be eligible should apply now. The deadline is Aug. 17, 2020,” he said.

He said the congressional office, as always, can help make sure that anyone, who thinks they may be eligible, knows how and where to apply for this new status.

“And we can help track applications to make sure papers are not lost and that decisions are made without unnecessary delay,” he said.

Public charge rule

On the public charge rule matter, Sablan said the U.S. Supreme Court lifted a nationwide injunction on application of the public charge rule on Jan. 27.

“That means that the Trump administration may now put the policy into effect,” he said.

A public charge is a person who receives government cash assistance for income or long-term care. That means one who received food stamps or Medicare, among other government-funded benefits.

Sablan said there continues to be numerous challenges to the public charge rule in lower courts and eventually the Supreme Court may rule on the merits of those challenges.

As for specific questions about how the Trump administration will apply the public charge rule, Sablan referred *Saipan Tribune* to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Bautista added that the Marianas Visitors Authority has also been informed about the stranded tourists and are doing its part in helping the tourists that remain on Saipan.

“CPA has readily informed MVA. We’re now working on a process in which we just make sure that we take care of these tourists,” Bautista said.

Bautista mentioned that Torres sent a letter to Hong Kong Express Airways chief executive officer Mandy Ng last week and the airline responded quickly to Torres’ recommendations.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said nearly 80 of Hong Kong Express Airway’s passengers who were left behind have departed Saipan as of last week.

King-Hinds said CPA expects that

said Tababa.

According to Lindsay Ahn, Corporate Social Responsibility manager of E-Land Group (Saipan), which owns PIC, they were worried that not many people would join the duck race, but due to the support of the community and people who joined, the event was a total success.

“We are really grateful for the support and that this signature event of PIC is an event where everyone can have fun and there’s a good cause that comes out of it,” said Ahn. She also added that if there are other things that they can do to help contribute to the community of CNMI, they would be happy to.

The event’s sponsors are PIC, Bridge Capital, Pacific Trading Co., Pepsi, Gatorade, and E-Land.

USCIS has come out with new forms in connection with the implementation of its inadmissibility on public grounds final rule, making it more difficult for lower-income immigrants to adjust their immigration status and obtain a “green card” or have their residency status approved.

Some long-term alien workers are hoping that Sablan or the USCIS would come up with definite statements regarding eligibility for the new status for long-term residents of CNMI and the public charge rule.

Rina (who asked that her last name be withheld), 50, a Filipino, said her only question is if those eligible are the 1,000 people who were granted humanitarian parole. Based on the USCIS criteria, Rina said she falls under two categories that USCIS listed as eligible. She said that she is the parent of a U.S. citizen child on Nov. 27, 2011, and continues to have such family relationship with the citizen. She added that she has resided continuously and lawfully in the CNMI from Nov. 28, 2009, through June 25, 2019.

Rina said she is also eligible to apply for green card status this year, but like many others who are in the same situation, the public charge rule issue has confused her.

“The public charge rule scares us because we had Medicaid before for our U.S. citizen child. It’s our child who was the applicant and not me,” she said.

Had the alien parents known that USCIS would later use the Medicaid application against them, Rina said that no alien parents would have let their U.S. citizen child apply for it.

all of the remaining stranded passengers will be returning home in the next week or so.

Hong Kong Express was the only airline that reportedly left behind tourists following flight suspension

ADMINISTRATION

From Page 1

Kevin Bautista.

He added that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios have supported the long-term status for qualified longtime nonresidents for years.

Bautista said that Torres was a member of the CNMI Senate when it recommended improved status for long-term aliens in 2011.

According to Bautista, the NMI Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act signed by President Donald Trump on June 25, 2019, was a vital part of the Torres administration’s recommendations at the 902 consultations, and their work with the White House, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), and other members of Congress.

“The governor’s office will do everything it can to support USCIS in making sure that this [law will be implemented] as smoothly and efficiently as possible so that the qualified families can benefit from it in the

on Feb. 6 as a result of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Other airlines that suspended flights are China Eastern Airlines, Sichuan Airlines, and Beijing Capital Airlines.

right way,” he said.

Bautista added that the news was special to him personally, being the son of immigrant workers who have built a life in the CNMI.

“You know, I know I am talking on behalf of the administration, but as a Filipino-American in this administration, it means a lot to see this policy now being implemented by USCIS,” Bautista said.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the application period for those seeking the new CNMI long-term resident status opened on Feb. 19, 2020.

Eligible aliens will have 180 days to apply for the new status, which was created by the Northern Mariana Islands Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act (48 U.S.C. 1806(e)(6)), signed by Trump on June 25, 2019.

Applicants must file Form I-955, Application for CNMI Long-Term Resident Status, together with Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, by Aug. 17, 2020. CNMI long-term resident status is not the same thing as lawful permanent residence and does not lead to lawful permanent resident status.

CUC

From Page 1

meeting last week with members of the House Public Utilities, and Transportation and Communications Committee in the House of Representatives’ conference room.

If CUC does not have the money to buy fuel, then the electric power supply will be shared across the island and that would cause rolling blackouts, Camacho said. “But as far as mechanical, I think we are fine,” he added.

Part of a recent power outage occurred during the first week of independent power producer Aggreko’s operation when the system had to be adjusted.

Camacho said they are now overhauling and repairing power engines and that Aggreko is here to enable CUC to turn off the engines for rehabilitation work.

“Aggreko is [intended] to supplement that load in the reserve capacity. Now, if we lose an engine in this process we may have a problem. But nothing is anticipated,” he said.

Camacho said they can turn off power engine No. 5 at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base for overhaul, when

the repair work on engine No. 6 is completed.

He said the problem with engine No. 5 is that the group selected to overhaul it was supposed to arrive on March 16, but the engineer was doing a project in China.

“So that whole quarantine [due to coronavirus outbreak] pushed that three weeks. That whole group of people would not start on time. But for the right reason. Keep them out there until they are clear,” Camacho said.

After the overhaul on engine No. 5 is completed, then they can overhaul engine No. 7.

“By that time, Aggreko can move on if we have no need for them. So that’s how the plan is,” Camacho said.

Camacho said a new mechanical engineer for the power plant will soon be coming on board. He said the mechanical engineer had already been interviewed and that they are just preparing the final documentation.

He said the position has been vacant when their previous mechanical engineer passed away three months ago.

Camacho earlier stated he would recommend to the CUC board not to cut the CUC workers’ 80-hour work schedule.

from different jurisdictions.

“That’s what we are counting on. I’m not sure what kind of revenue we’ll see on the commercial side. That has yet to be seen,” he said.

The senator said when they get everything or regulations in place, then they can see what’s the commercial component or what kind of effect it will have on the CNMI’s tourism.

“It’s a bit of unknown. We just kind of really wait for it to take off and see where it goes,” he said. “Hopefully it can bring some economic activity to the islands.”

CANNABIS

From Page 3

complete, he said the permitting process will commence.

“People can come in and start getting their homegrown permits or home growers permits,” he said, adding that there will be permits for commercial establishments or investors interested in the industry. Sablan is hoping to see the actual emergence of the cannabis industry and an increase in visitor arrivals

NMC to implement first phase of austerity plan

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will be executing the first phase of austerity measures effective March 8.

That includes cutting work hours, reducing electricity usage, restricting non-federal travel, and reducing amounts that would go to different de-

partments for equipment and supplies for the third and fourth quarter. They will also restrict the hiring of non-federal positions, including critical positions that NMC needs filled.

This has become necessary as the college had been informed by the Office of Management and Budget that the institution's budget allocation will be reduced by 28.3%

because of the COVID-19 impact on the local economy.

According to NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, the board voted to support the austerity measures proposed by the college leadership. The reduction of up to 20% of work hours, as well as other measures to reduce all expenses for the institution for the remaining fiscal year, will

be effective in March.

Prior to the Board of Regents meeting, Eliptico reached out to leadership team members who are directors and deans of the various departments on campus, as well as the staff senate, faculty staff, and different departments to also get suggestions about other ways the college can implement to cut cost, while also

evaluating the consequences of the suggestions.

Additionally, NMC's work study has also been holding off on hiring students who want to participate in work study. The purpose of work study is for students to help different departments at the college while getting some experience and also getting paid.

"The austerity measures

don't apply to federally funded employees and anybody making \$25,000 or less," said Eliptico.

Although NMC will be cutting expenses in order to survive the fiscal year, this won't affect any of the classes or students. Eliptico does not plan on cancelling any of them and the classes will continue as scheduled.

NMC
Students from Northern Marianas College's Rota campus at an event hosted by the Associated Students of NMC during the college's spring 2020 Welcome Week. For more information about the Northern Marianas College, visit www.marianas.edu.



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF NMC

The Northern Marianas College recently swore in new Associated Students of NMC officers during an investiture ceremony on campus. ASNMC officers are elected each fall semester to represent NMC students. From left, ASNMC adviser Roxanne Torres, School of Education director Roland Merar, Student Leadership coordinator Alexis Cabrera, senator Joelin Mettao, vice president Maia Pangelinan, secretary Eloise Lopez, senator Victoria Matsunaga, dean of Learning and Student Success Charlotte Cepeda, president Shanthia Espinosa, ASNMC adviser Jose Tudela, and Human Resources director Polly Masga.

NMC

Two get \$100K bail each for drug trafficking

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

A bail of \$100,000 was imposed on each of two men who were arrested for allegedly trafficking methamphetamine or "ice."

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed last week a \$100,000 cash bail each on James Q. Reyes, 47, and George T. Manglona, 39, two of four who were arrested for alleged "ice" trafficking.

Both Reyes and Manglona are set for a preliminary hearing on Feb. 26 at 9am and will be arraigned before Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja on March 12 at 9am.

The two other individuals who were arrested were Miriam B. Buatis, 47, and Carrie Jane DLR Ada, 39. A warrant of arrest is still out for Juan Sablan Ada, 43, who has yet to be found.

After learning from CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force informants that all four were allegedly selling "ice," DETF officers obtained surveillance authorization from the court and conducted separate investigations and buy-walk operations.

According to court documents, Manglona sold \$300 worth of methamphetamine to a cooperating informant during a sting operation last January.

Quitugua, on two occasions, allegedly sold methamphetamine to a cooperating informant in January and March 2019, court documents stated.

Both defendants were released after they agreed to assist the CNMI government in other drug-related cases. However, both were not able to provide substantial cooperation so the Attorney General's Office asked the court to revoke their

temporary release.

According to a press release from the Department of Public Safety, the CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force executed four arrest warrants for Reyes, Manglona, Ada, and Buatis on Feb. 17 for illegal possession and trafficking of a controlled substance.

The arrests were made pursuant to arrest warrants issued

by the Superior Court judges with bail for each defendant at \$100,000.

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Man arrested for alleged disturbing the peace, robbery

On Thursday, Jan. 31, 2020, at about 10:50pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety responded to a possible pedestrian accident on Beach Road, in front of the KFC and Taco Bell restaurants in Chalan Kanoa.

Assault and battery incident at CHC

Three months after a warrant was issued for his arrest, police finally arrested Patrick Romolor Litulumar at his home in Koblerville. Litulumar, who is accused of head-butting a security personnel at the Commonwealth Health Center in an attempt to avoid an injection, was arrested after being off-island. According to the police statement last week, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call requesting for police assistance last July 24, 2019, at about 4:11am, at the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan. DPS dispatched units to the area. Upon arriving at the scene, police met with a nurse who directed them to an on-duty security guard. The security guard stated that they were called to assist a nurse, as a patient, later identified as Litulumar, was giving the nurse a difficult time to administer a shot. Security attempted to hold Litulumar to allow the nurse to safely administer the shot. The patient then allegedly head-butted the security in the face, forcing them to fall. The security guard sustained bruising and a swollen left eye. When police arrived, they assisted holding Litulumar in place for the nurse to administer the shot. The patient was then transported to the Department of Corrections where he was later released.



Litulumar

Pau Pau Beach in San Roque, when he noticed the victim's vehicle drive past. Upon conducting a vehicle stop, the operator got out of the vehicle and identified himself as Travis Camacho. Camacho was arrested for operating a stolen vehicle. He was brought to the Department of Corrections where he was later released.

On Nov. 14, 2019, an arrest warrant was signed and issued by the Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio. Upon receiving the arrest warrant, police learned that Litulumar was off-island.

Litulumar was finally arrested by police at his home in Koblerville last Feb. 19, 2020, at about 3:56pm. The police report did not indicate how long Litulumar had been off-island. (PR)

On Feb. 18, 2020, CNMI Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley M. Bogdan signed and issued an arrest warrant for Camacho for the charges of disturbing the peace and robbery, with bail set at \$20,000. On Feb. 19, 2020, at about 4:24pm, police arrested Camacho in Chalan Kanoa and brought him to DOC where he was booked and de-



Camacho

Public invited to Women's Month proclamation signing this Friday

The community is invited to attend the 2020 Women's Month proclamation signing on Friday, Feb. 28, 2020, at 10am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Su-supe. Hosted by the Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor, the proclamation signing will kick off a series of events in March.

Under the theme, "Continuing to Rise: Women Leading Sustainable Development," the 2020 Women's Month Planning Committee, co-led by the CNMI Women's Association and the Women's Affairs Office, has planned a series of events to bring together a collective agenda of empowering all women and girls and advocating for sustainable leadership: ■ Sunday, March 1: "Day of Prayer" 9:30am at Kristo Rai Church, hosted by the Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor; ■ Friday, March 6: "Women of Action Recognition Day" 6pm-8pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Su-supe, hosted by first lady Diann Torres and Wella Palacios; ■ Saturday, March 7: "Meet & Greet" from 2pm to 5pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, hosted by the Women's Affairs Office under the Office of the Governor; ■ Sunday, March 8: International Women's Day; ■ Tuesday, March 17: "Master Class" from 5:30pm to 7:30pm (venue TBA) hosted by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce; ■ Tuesday, March 24: "CNMI Women's Expo" featuring women entrepreneurs and artisans, hosted by the CNMI Women's Association at the Carolinian Utt. ■ Friday, March 27: "Women's Summit" hosted by the CNMI Women's Association at Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Everyone is encouraged to get involved in this year's 2020 Women's Month activities. The planning committee is also encouraging the community to host an event, by contacting 233-9879/9411 or sending an email to cwa.fogumoro@gmail.com. "Women are at the heart of sustainable development," said Felicidad Ogomoro, CWA administrator. "As we continue to push for greater action, we have more work to do to connect the issues of gender, sustainability, and climate action." (PR)

Rough seas seen until Wednesday

A small craft advisory is currently in effect through early Wednesday morning. Meanwhile, there is a high risk of rip currents through late Wednesday night.


Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, fresh to strong trade winds and trade-wind waves and swell will be hazardous for small craft the next several days.

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota coastal waters will experience northeast winds of 15 to 25 knots, with gusts up to 30 knots and seas of 8 to 10 feet within the Marianas coastal waters. Conditions will be hazardous to small craft.


The public and inexperienced mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions.

Also, surf heights of 8 to 10 feet will maintain dangerous and frequent rip currents along east facing reefs the next several days through Wednesday night.

Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. The public is being warned that strong rip currents will be life threatening along east facing reefs. If you become caught in a rip current, remain calm. Swim out of a rip current by swimming parallel to shore, then back toward the beach when possible. Do not attempt to swim directly against a rip current as you will tire quickly. (Saipan Tribune)



COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
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AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the Conference Room located on the 2nd Floor of the Commission's main office at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

- I. PRELIMINARIES:**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes: January 30, 2020
- II. REPORTS:**
 - A. Report by the Chairman
 - B. Report by the Executive Director
- III. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:**
 - A. Casino Licensee -- Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC ("IPI") -- Updates:
 - 1. Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel ("IPR"):
 - a) Update on IPR's Construction
 - b) Update on the opening of the Villas
 - 2. IPI Personnel:
 - a) Resident Employment Objectives
 - b) Casino License Agreement -- Annual Plan
 - c) Update on the reduction in employee hours
 - 3. Responsible Gaming Program
 - 4. Compliance Committee Report
 - 5. IPI Financial Matters
 - B. Other Miscellaneous Matters.
- V. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - A. Update on House Bill 21-11, HS1
 - B. Other Old Business Matters
- VI. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - A. **CCC Order No. 2020-001.** IPI CFO's request, dated February 20, 2020, to amend Section 9, 10, and 12 of the Commission Order No. 2020-001: Order Requiring Casino Licensee to Settle Uncontested Accounts Payable. Possible modification of Commission Order 2020-001.
 - B. Renewal of Regular Casino Service Provider License -- Gaming Vendor (2-year license). **Gaming Partner International USA, Inc. ("GPI").** Manufacturer of gaming chips, equipment, and related devices. Based in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. Initial 2-year Casino Service Provider License will expire on February 28, 2020.
 - C. Proposed denial of application for non-gaming Casino Vendor License -- Incomplete Application. **SFH Furnishing Limited.** Supplier of building materials and related products. Extended Provisional License expired on January 06, 2020.
 - D. **FY2021 Budget Request.** Consideration and Approval of CCC Budget Appropriations Request for FY2021.
 - E. Other New Business Matters.
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
 - A. Report by Legal Counsel
 - B. Report by the CCC Audit and Compliance Division
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910 (b). Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912 (a)(7) and 1 CMC §9912 (c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

/s/ Juan M. Sablan
Chairman



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

02/10/20

Notice for Public Comment

Reprogramming of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds

Program Year/ IDIS No.:	Program:	Activity Name:	Subrecipient: Budget:	Approved Reprogramming Amount:	Proposed Revised Project Budget:	Proposed IDIS Funded Amount:	Current
2019/701	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Tinian Gymnasium Basketball Court	Office of the Mayor of Tinian	\$86,250.00	(\$86,250.00)	\$0.00	\$86,250.00
2019/705	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Rota Youth Center	CNMI Department of Community and Cultural Affairs	\$200,000.00	(\$200,000.00)	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
2019/706	CDBG	Rehabilitation of the Sinapalo Children's Park Roof	CNMI Office of Grants Management	\$284,910.80	(\$284,910.80)	\$0.00	\$284,910.80
		Total Reprogrammed from Activities:			(\$571,160.80)		
NEW	CDBG	Purchase and Installation of Modular/Pre-fabricated Units for Transitional Housing (Saipan)	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation	\$0.00	\$571,160.80	\$571,160.80	\$0.00
		Total Reprogrammed to Activities:			\$571,160.80		

Our agency through its Citizen Participation Plan (CPP) that we publish a "Public Notice" on reprogramming of funds over \$50,001.00. Therefore, comments from the general public should be submitted to NMHC Central office located in Garapan, Saipan on or before March 11, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m. You may contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer at (670)234-6866/9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director



First naturalization of 2020 swears in 25

The 25 naturalized citizens pose for a photo following the naturalization ceremony yesterday at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first naturalization ceremony of 2020 swore in 25 new U.S. citizens who have lived and work in the CNMI for decades.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona Manglona swore in the 25 new citizens Thursday at the U.S. District Court on Beach Road.

Charito and Henry Bautista, a couple who have been in the CNMI for 28 and 30 years, respectively, could not hold back their excitement because after over two decades, the two were finally able to obtain their citizenship.

With her new citizenship, Charito Bautista, a Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality laboratory manager, believes she can now travel with few restrictions. With that privilege, she aims to attend trainings, workshops, and seminars in her field and apply what she has learned in the CNMI.

"I can now travel conveniently without hassle at the immigration counter and I would be able to share the knowledge and skills I will acquire from attending workshops and trainings. I would be able share my knowledge with the agency I work for and I could help the Commonwealth with the skills I have obtained," she said.

Henry Bautista, a senior highway engineer with the Department of Public Works, said he is proud to become a naturalized citizen but is even prouder to have his sons, Kevin and Kent, witness this milestone in their lives.

The longest CNMI resident in the batch, Nelson Hernandez Gopez, was joyous because after 42 years on Saipan, he could finally say he is a citizen.

Bautista, Charito, and Gopez, like every immigrant searching for a better life in the U.S., came from humble beginnings.

Bautista shared that, although he had a degree as an engineer, he came to Saipan as a construction worker and

worked hard up until the day he was hired at DPW.

Charito came to Saipan and started off as a housekeeper, before taking up accounting even though her heart's desire was to work at BECQ's Division of Environmental Quality, which is her area of expertise. She wasn't only able to achieve that dream, but quickly climbed the ladder to a managerial position.

Gopez also worked his way up, from a car painter, to starting his own shop, and holding a position at Kanoa Resort for years.

Kevin Bautista, eldest son of Charito and Bautista and press secretary to CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, said immigrants are an inspiration and everyone who is naturalized deserves to be a part of the United States.

"This country is built on immigrants. These islands are built on immigrants, built from the hands of immigrants and every single person who calls these beautiful islands home has a story and their story contributes to the story of the Commonwealth," he said.

Northern Marianas College president Frankie Eliptico, who gave the keynote speech, said it was a wonderful opportunity to address the new citizens.

"This was extra special because we recently celebrated President's Day, which is celebrated nationally and it's a common celebration of diversity, our leadership everywhere, and I was so honored to have been able to speak to our newest fellow citizens this morning," he said.

The other naturalized citizens are Salve Barbacena Bahillo, Elden Haygood Buhay, Francisco Soriano Buniag, Marites Cruz Cabaltica, Jeneth Cortez, Teresita Fernandez, Danilo Gaza, Luz Gapor, Hong Shi Hanley, Jocelyn Joyce, Ronnie Manaloto, Maria Miranda, Josephine Palacios, Maria Pensader, Celina Rivera, Edna Ruluked, Emllyn Santiago, Cleofe Santos, Simplicia Sunio, Florencia Taitingfong, Rochelle Tomokane, and Tianshuai Zhou.



Draw your dream, Drive the future.

Toyota Dream Car Art Contest invites children from all corners of the globe to share ideas about the future of mobility by drawing their dream cars.

Create your "Dream Car"

REQUIREMENTS

- Use any standard drawing medium (coloring pencils, crayons, paints or markers).
- Paper Size: 11"(h) x 17"(w).
- The color, material, and shape of paper can be chosen freely.
- Artwork with a thickness of over 5mm will be disqualified.
- Collage or cutout pictures will be allowed for plain drawings, excluding ones making other artworks dirty or requiring special care in handling.
- Unacceptable pieces:
 - CG artwork created on a computer or similar device will not be accepted.
 - Collaborative artwork drawn by multiple individuals will also not be accepted.
 - From a copyright perspective, simulant artworks / trademarked characters will also not be accepted.

ENTRY PERIOD

Deadline February, 28, 2020

CONTEST THEME

Your Dream Car

AGE CATEGORIES

Under 8 years old
8 - 11 years old
12 - 15 years old

INQUIRIES

Atkins Kroll
Administration Office of Toyota Dream Car Art Contest
Phone number: (671) 648-8415
E-mail address: athena.ramos@akguam.com

LOCAL CONTEST

• Submissions will be accepted no later than February 28, 2020 at:

AK Toyota
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950

• Awards: Gold, Silver, Bronze, Special award

WEBSITE

For more information, scan to log onto
www.AKsaipan.com/dreamcar



Atkins Kroll (Saipan), Inc.
#1 Chalan Msr Guerrero San Jose
Saipan, MP 96950

Call 234-5911

Showroom Hours: Monday to Saturday 8am to 5 pm



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Exercise Cope North 20

Photos by U.S. AIR FORCE/
SENIOR AIRMAN GRACIE LEE



A U.S. Naval MH-60S Knighthawk pilot assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam flies an MH-60 while conducting combat search and rescue training with U.S. Air Force and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDF) airmen at the Northern Mariana Island of Tinian, during Exercise Cope North 20, last Feb. 20, 2020. Cope North 20 is an annual trilateral field training exercise conducted at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, and around the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Palau and Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia.



U.S. Naval aircrewmen assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam step to a U.S. Navy MH-60S Knighthawk for combat search and rescue training with U.S. Air Force and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDF) Airmen at the Northern Mariana Island of Tinian, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.



U.S. Naval aircrewman 3rd Class Nayran Fernandez, MH-60S Knighthawk aircrew member, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam conducts combat search and rescue training with U.S. Air Force and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDF) airmen at the Northern Mariana Island of Tinian, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.



U.S. Naval aircrewmen Second Class John Rodgers, MH-60S Knighthawk aircrew member, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam peers out the side door of an MH-60 during combat search and rescue training with U.S. Air Force airmen and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDF) airmen at the Northern Mariana Island of Tinian, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.



U.S. Naval aircrewmen Second Class John Rodgers, MH-60S Knighthawk aircrew member, assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam peers out the side door of an MH-60 during combat search and rescue training with U.S. Air Force and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDF) Airmen at the Northern Mariana Island of Tinian, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.



U.S. Naval aircrewmen assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam place a litter holding airman 1st Class Ken Anthony Cabrerias, 154th Security Forces Squadron, in an MH-60S Knighthawk during combat search and rescue training with U.S. Air Force and Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDF) airmen at the Northern Mariana Island of Tinian, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.



U.S. Naval aircrewman 3rd Class Nayran Fernandez, and Naval aircrewman Josh Rodgers, MH-60S Knighthawk aircrew members assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, carry a litter with U.S. Air Force airman Bronson Hughes, 154th Security Forces, during combat search and rescue training at the Northern Mariana Island of Tinian, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.



U.S. Naval Aircrewman 3rd Class Nayran Fernandez, and Naval aircrewman Josh Rodgers, MH-60S Knighthawk aircrew members assigned to Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, Andersen Air Force Base, Guam place a litter with U.S. Air Force airman Bronson Hughes, 154th Security Forces, in a U.S. Navy MH-60 during combat search and rescue training at the Northern Mariana Island of Tinian, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.



A Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDF) U-125 assigned to Air Rescue Wing, flies next to an MH-60S Knighthawk assigned to the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, near the Northern Mariana Islands, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.



A Koku Jieitai (Japan Air Self-Defense Force or JASDF) U-125 assigned to Air Rescue Wing, flies next to an MH-60S Knighthawk assigned to the Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron 25, near the Northern Mariana Islands, during Exercise Cope North 20, Feb. 20, 2020.

'Public charge' rule to go into effect nationwide

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will implement the Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds final rule on Feb. 24, 2020, nationwide, including in Illinois, following

another judicial victory lifting the injunction in that state.

In light of the U.S. Supreme Court's Feb. 21, 2020, decision to stay the statewide injunction preventing implementation of the Final Rule

issued by U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, USCIS will now apply the Final Rule to all applications and petitions postmarked (or submitted electronically) on or after Feb. 24, 2020. For

applications and petitions that are sent by commercial courier (e.g., UPS/FedEx/DHL), the postmark date is the date reflected on the courier receipt.

The Final Rule, published on Aug. 14, 2019 and originally scheduled to go into effect on Oct. 15, 2019, prescribes how the Department of Homeland Security will determine whether an alien is inadmissible, and in-

eligible to adjust status to that of a lawful permanent resident in the United States because the alien is likely at any time in the future to become a public charge, pursuant to section 212(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The Final Rule also addresses USCIS' authority to issue public charge bonds in the context of applications for

adjustment of status. Finally, the Final Rule includes a requirement that aliens seeking an extension of nonimmigrant stay or change of nonimmigrant status demonstrate that they have not received public benefits over the designated threshold since obtaining the nonimmigrant status they seek to extend or change.

More information is available on the USCIS website, including an update to the USCIS Policy Manual. (*USCIS*)

COTA to suspend bus line service

Effective April 5, 2020, the fixed-route bus service of the Commonwealth Office of Transport Authority will be suspended indefinitely due to a low number of riders.

The bus service, called the Flame Tree Line 1A, is the only fixed-route public trans-

portation system on the island of Saipan. It was first implemented on April 9, 2018, as a pilot project.

In an announcement last week, COTA said that those who will be affected by this suspension of the bus line can still use the COTA demand response

service (Call-A-Ride Saipan) to go to places of employment, medical appointments, etc.

For more information, contact COTA at (670) 664-2682 or email Diego B. Songsong, community planner/Title VI coordinator, at diego.songsong@gov.mp. (*PR*)



BIRTHDAY BASH

Japanese Consul Kazuhiko Ono, fourth from left, is joined by CNMI officials led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, fifth from left, in making a toast to celebrate the 60th birthday of Japan Emperor Naruhito at the Fiesta Hall of the Grandvrio Resort Saipan last Feb. 19.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

'Mardi Gras at the Beach' tomorrow

Put on your Mardi Gras masks and beads and join Soroptimist International of the Northern Marianas Islands tomorrow for a Fat Tuesday Revival for a good cause at Godfather's Beach House Bar at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Set for Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2020, at 5:30pm with free entrance and free chasers, "Mardi Gras at the Beach" is a fundraiser for the nonprofit group's annual "Live Your Dream" Awards, aimed to

give scholarships to female students needing the assistance to reach their life and career goals.

A male and female Mardi Gras costume contest and Heineken and Cruzan drink specials are the added attractions for the event.

"We wanted to do something fun and bring back the Mardi Gras celebration for everyone to enjoy. We would like to thank Godfather's Beach Bar for the support

and partnership and our other sponsors as well," said SINMI president Donna Krum.

Heineken, Cruzan, D&Q International, Pacific Islands Club, Fiesta Resort, Aqua Resort Club, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Plumeria Events, Natural Nail Salon, *Marianas Variety*, 360 Restaurant, and Godfather's Beach House Bar round up the event's sponsors.

For more information on SINMI, visit www.facebook/nmisoroptimists. (*PR*)

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER)
OF THE ESTATE OF) Civil Action
DONALD BUFTON,) No. 20-0072
Deceased.)

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Michael A. White has filed a Petition for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Donald Bufton, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on 19 March, 2020, at the hour of 10:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Donald Bufton, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Petitioner. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

Dated: 20 February, 2020

/s/ Joseph N. Camacho,
Associate Judge



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



Janice E. Castro
Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020, 9:30AM** at the BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room, in Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of December 10, 2019 Meeting Minutes

II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW

A. CRM Permit Application No. TMS-2020-X-006

Project: MARPO HEIGHTS PHASE II HOMESTEAD SUBDIVISION

The Department of Public Lands is proposing to develop the Marpo Heights Phase II Homestead Subdivision on Lot No. 271-T-73, measuring about 51.7 ha or 128.5 acres of land. The proposed homestead subdivision is comprised of 456 residential lots, a park, and ponding basin.

- Agencies' Discussion & Review Comments
- Agencies' Permit Conditions
- CRM Permit Application Final Determination

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION

IV. OTHER MATTERS

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony regarding the above agenda items. (NOTE: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

/s/ JANICE E. CASTRO
Director, DCRM



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION (NMHC)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

Amendment No. 1

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2020

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated \$1,323,285.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of \$867,556.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); \$386,617.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, \$69,112.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2020.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning November 14, 2019. You may also obtain the application online at www.nmhc.gov.net in the section titled "Public Notice/Announcement" subsection "Community Planning Development"

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by **March 31, 2020, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after March 31, 2020, will not be accepted.**

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

**February 12, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian—
February 10, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota
February 13, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Saipan
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Rota—
February 14, 2020, 6:00 p.m. for the island of Tinian**

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the Rota Mayor's Office Conference Room in Tatachog.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Ms. Tricia Tenorio, Planner at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Tinian Field Office
Tel: (670)433-9213
Fax: (670)433-3690

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Rota Field Office
Tel: (670)532-9410
Fax: (670)532-9441

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Mishaps and mistakes help globalize the coronavirus pandemic

Professionals devoted to preventing global pandemics know best how to do their jobs—when they're left to do their jobs. The danger comes when politicians and bureaucrats intervene with an eye toward easing human suffering or minimizing political fallout and wind up hastening the spread of the very viruses they're fighting. One bad decision after another helped make the 2014 Ebola scare far worse than it should have been. The new novel coronavirus pandemic is exposing an entirely new dimension in bad calls.

The plight of 380 Americans stuck aboard the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan is a case in point. U.S. officials decided to evacuate the Americans, who were among the 2,666 guests and 1,045 crew aboard. But it was only after they were removed and seated on airport-bound buses that officials determined 14 were infected with the coronavirus. By putting them inside a jumbo jet, the risk rapidly escalated for even more passengers to become infected during the long trans-Pacific flight.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said he wouldn't be surprised if more of the evacuees tested positive. The quarantine on the Diamond Princess simply wasn't working. "I'd like to sugarcoat it and try to be diplomatic about it, but it failed. ... Something went awry in the process of the quarantining on that ship," he told USA Today.

Were there better options than putting them on a plane for an additional 14-day quarantine at two U.S. military locations? Would it have been smarter to keep them quarantined on shore in Japan? Some passengers smartly refused to board the plane, worrying that the risk was too high.

Then there was the warm welcome that Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen gave to the 2,257 passengers aboard a Holland America cruise ship after other countries had refused to let it dock. Instead of insisting on a quarantine once he granted entry, the prime minister let hundreds of passengers disperse—without being tested.

Each time an infection is reported, medical personnel are supposed to find out exactly where the patient has been and with whom he or she has been in contact. Those people all need to be tested. Multiply that process by the 73,332 confirmed cases as of Feb. 18—including 804 in 25 countries outside of China—and that helps explain the massive job ahead when containment efforts fall apart. The temporary (albeit extreme) discomfort of a few is better than risking a far greater mass exposure.

Two Dallas nurses learned the hard way during the 2014 U.S. Ebola outbreak what disasters befall medical personnel who aren't trained to follow proper quarantine procedures. With 15 infections of coronavirus confirmed around the United States, the time for preparation and training is now.

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Mike Setton
cartoons.com/
@RedCartooner

Noted farming expert's first day on the job

Presidential pardons have been a bad idea since 1787

The president of the United States isn't a king, and he isn't above the law -- or so constitutional law professors like me keep reminding everybody. But the painful truth is that there is one exception to this truth: the pardon power, exercised this week by President Donald Trump to free or absolve several white-collar criminals.

The presidential power to pardon is a holdover from British monarchy. And pardoning by definition goes above and outside the legal system. The pardon power therefore poses a structural threat to the republican character of the U.S. government.

It gets worse. The framers understood that a president might abuse the pardon power. But they thought impeachment was a failsafe against that abuse. Now that Trump has been impeached but not removed, it's hard to see what constraint still exists, short of public opinion.

We therefore need to ask a hard question about pardons: Should they be abandoned as relics of a bygone, antidemocratic age?

Let's start with the framers, and how the pardon power made its way into the Constitution. Several state governors held the pardon power, and it was expected that the president would have it, too. On Aug. 27, 1787, Roger Sherman of Connecticut proposed that the president only be able to exercise it with the consent of the Senate, an objection intended to lessen its apparently monarchic character. That idea was voted down without discussion.

On Sept. 15, 1787, the issue arose again after Edmund Randolph, the governor of Virginia and a critic of strong executive power, argued that giving the president the ability to pardon treason would make him too powerful. Randolph worried that "the president may himself be guilty. The traitors may be his own instruments."

In response, several framers who favored strong executive power spoke out against the alternative of giving the pardon power to Congress. Gouverneur Morris said he would "rather there should be no pardon for treason, than let the power devolve on the legislature." James Wilson said that the pardon power, even in cases of treason, "is best placed in the hands of the executive."

Rufus King further argued that "a legislative body is utterly unfit for the purpose" of issuing pardons because it would be "governed too much by the passions of the moment." As an example he cited the Massachusetts legislature, which he claimed in one session "would have hung all the insurgents in that state" and then in the next legislative session "was equally disposed to pardon them all." This was an openly anti-republican theory of pardon that preferred the president precisely because he did not reflect the popular will in the same way as the legislature.

King then re-proposed Sherman's idea of Senate consent as a condition for pardon; and James Madison said he was prepared to agree to that arrangement for pardons of treason.

By **NOAH FELDMAN**
Bloomberg News

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and host of the podcast *Deep Background*. He is a professor of law at Harvard University and was a clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice David Souter. His books include *The Three Lives of James Madison: Genius, Partisan, President*.



But Randolph rejected the compromise idea of Senate consent because "the great danger to liberty lay in a combination between the president and that body." George Mason, another critic of executive power, echoed Randolph, insisting that "the Senate has already too much power." The upshot was that the whole idea was dropped. The presidential pardon power remained intact—and restricted to the president.

The framers thought that a president who abused the pardon power would be impeached. Wilson said so explicitly in the same debate: "If he be himself a party to the guilt he can be impeached and prosecuted." Madison made the same argument later at the Virginia ratifying convention.

Fast-forward to the present—and to a president who seems to be beyond the reach of impeachment. Might it be possible to limit future presidents from using the pardon power outrageously by creating a bureaucratic process that presidents commit to following before they issue pardons? It sounds like a good idea; and indeed, there exists an official office of the pardon attorney in the Department of Justice to run that process.

The trouble is that a president can, if he chooses, go outside that bureaucratic process. Trump did so in pardoning Michael Milken, the insider trader and one-time junk bond king. That leaves public condemnation as the only remedy. And Trump seems impervious to that check, too.

It's difficult to avoid the conclusion that the pardon power should be abandoned as a relic of a time when monarchic ideas were still part of the constitutional fabric.

Advocates of mercy will say, with some justification, that we should not have a system in which the word of the courts is final. Forgiveness is a crucial human virtue.

But the answer to that problem is for the legislature to create mechanisms for review of past convictions that allow for mercy and forgiveness. Putting the pardon power into one man makes him into a king, almost a god. It was a bad idea in 1787. It's a bad idea now. Donald Trump just makes that obvious.

T.O.A.S.T: Telling Old Age Sonnet Tales

LITERARY NOOK

By **JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

Inspiration for this poem comes from Elizabeth Bishop, US Poet Laureate 1949: "The armored cars of dreams contrived to let us do many dangerous things" and a painting by 15th century painter Hieronymus Bosch, Tondal's Last Vision.

In the Armored Cars of Dreams

Protection, perfection, putridity, and perfidy inside your head myriad mesmerizing selections while staying home in bed falling in and out of love, dreadful and delightful daydreams falling sound asleep, before waking state, in sleep very deep deep inside Elizabeth Bishop's armored cars of dreams reside volumes of laughter and night fright screams REM speed developing, enveloping detriments and improvements time and temperature differential doesn't seem to matter Tondal's Last Vision scatters, splatters, pitter pitter patter walking on a wire, a wheel of death revolves slowly on fire a bed of glass, a bed of nails, a barge of death as dreamtime sails east of Tinian dropping into the depths of the Marianas Trench fumaroles, lava flows, a whale blows, submerged sulfuric stench high seas, high speeds, polar bears plead, addicts need, ice feeds typhoons terrorize the night, sea birds in flight circling to the right jaywalking, running across melting polar ice, shooting loaded dice and so inside the armored cars of dreams I sleep and so do you so real, surreal, beyond reality, false memories, and some true.

These two sonnets are dedicated to POTUS 45, D. J. Trump, on President's Day, Feb. 17. "I speak not, I trace not, I breathe not thy name. There is grief in the sound, there were guilt in thy fame."

—George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824)

Vainglorious, Fame Notorious, Shame Memorias

I tweet not and fear not autocracy and your name though I grieve at its sound, your guilt and your shame too long in the White House you must soon depart sorrow for our country resides deep in my heart for three years you have disturbed our nation's peace will House subpoenas and indictments ever cease you must cease... and desist, apologize and explain please retire to Mar A Lago to unite the US again impeached forever now your name is gilded with guilt too much ethical and moral blood has been spilt your heart must bear it alone without your base Barr & Giuliani can't share it or help you save face now vainglorious, vindictive, lacking in humility, phony your status a quagmire of lawsuits, lying, and acrimony.

You Tweeted, You Lied, We Grieved

"You smiled, you spoke, and I believed by every word and smile deceived."

—Walter Savage Landor (1775-1864)

You tweeted, you lied, we grieved at every insulting word as you deceived and wished that we would hear no more and hoped it could be somewhat like before despite a vindictive nature your sycophants remain as you continue lying and deceit again and again the Mueller Report your red base reads not anointed with your power Giuliani breeds rot towards truth and transparency AG Barr speeds not something's rotten in D.C. US Senators are amiss seeming myopic to truth they all are denying and with the exception of one, impeachment defying we hear the gasps and moans of our democracy dying your narcissism, instability, and ignorance the cause of all this.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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The loneliness of the new mother

"I'm fine but, wow, thanks for asking! Very few people ask how Mom is doing; we usually get asked how baby is doing, and that's that."

My simple "How are YOU?" was met with a complicated response when I asked my niece Anne what her life was like now that she had become a mom. This surprised me not at all.

For 40 years, women have felt safe trusting me with their imperfect-mom stories. This isn't because I can share their experiences but precisely because I can't. As someone who's never given birth, I can't compare. I can't judge them. I listen.

That's when they can say, as did Anne, "Caring for a newborn is intensely busy and incredibly boring. You adore your baby, but you also mourn your former life."

Like many women at home with a newborn, Anne has discovered her new role arrived swaddled in complexity: "Motherhood is presented as a phase of life that's entirely Instagram-able and joyful, and parts of it are, to be sure. But lurking beneath the surface is a darkness I'd never encountered."

Anne gave birth a few weeks ago. She's a marathoner, a swimmer, a librarian, a Brooklyn native and a smart, self-reliant cook. Her husband is wonderful, and her parents live nearby. She's fortunate, and Anne knows it.

And yet it is Anne who also acknowledges that she's facing "a sense of isolation for which no person, no health class, no college course, no blog, no nurse or doctor, no YouTube channel and no book" could have prepared her.

Anne does not seem to be undergoing postpartum depression, although one in seven new mothers will. Postpartum depression interferes with a woman's ability to care for herself or others in her family.

All—all?—Anne is doing right now is renegotiating every aspect of her life.

I imagine all women do when they give birth.

Sherry Louise, Air Force veteran and mother of three, remembers when she was "visibly pregnant" and found that everybody noticed her and sought her out as an eager student for their own stories. "They wanted me to cross over and join the motherhood ranks."

But once she delivered, these well-wishers deserted: "After I gave birth, it was as if I were a ghost town. It was like I was alone in an empty world, pushing my baby cart. Cars would stop

By **GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant



Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

on a dime so I could cross the parking lot when I was 8 months pregnant. Once I had the baby, cars no longer stopped to wave me across. I was just another disheveled and leaking mom that took up too much invisible space."

More than 100 women posted replies in answer to the question I asked about loneliness and motherhood. More than half focused on the difficulties of being recognized as people once they gave birth. They spoke of the sanctuary provided by libraries that welcomed infants; they described the shunning they felt in churches where they felt judged for having "uncontrollable" babies or were accused of "distracting" other worshippers.

"The blogs make being a mother look like bubbles, peach tea, and hysterical joy 24/7," wrote Kim-Marie Evans, "where really it's like being under house arrest. I walked in circles in the mall just to be near people. People smile and tell you how cute the baby is, so you at least get to have conversations with humans."

Some women do what advice-givers suggest is easy: They find or create Mommy-and-Me groups where the adults and the tiniest of children bond for a lifetime over crafts.

For others, though, like Yasmin Winjnands, such initiatives appear impossible: "I'm not great at making friends. I became so lonely that I did the grocery shopping in parts just to talk to someone other than my very beloved baby boy. It was an awkward, although beautiful, time."

An awkward though beautiful time, one described by many women as taking forever yet not lasting long enough. Here's to looking every new mother in the eye, not just smiling at the baby, and asking her "How are YOU?"

Here's to listening for her answer.

Michelle Obama's #PromChallenge is a worthy cause and a refreshing reminder that not every photo has to be flattering

Has a former first lady ever been as inspiring to watch as Michelle Obama?

Since exiting the White House, she has written a fantastic memoir ("Becoming"), traveled around the country talking about it with the likes of Oprah Winfrey, guided us through a too-rare dialogue about infertility and miscarriage, started Higher Ground Productions with Barack Obama and launched the Global Girls Alliance to educate girls around the globe, among other endeavors.

Her #PromChallenge is one of my favorites yet.

On Tuesday, she tweeted her 1982 prom photo (in which, defying all '80s logic, she looks fabulous) with an invitation to others to do the same, all in service of registering more high schoolers to vote.

"Throwing it back to my 1982 prom night and this pink satin, polka-dotted dress," Obama wrote. "Join the #PromChallenge with @WhenWeAllVote and @MTV and tell us what your school is doing to register students to vote. You could get a free prom for your school!"

When We All Vote is a nonprofit, nonpartisan group, co-chaired by Obama, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Tom Hanks and others, that works to increase voter participation. The organization partnered with MTV on the Prom Challenge, which invites high school students to describe how their school is working to integrate voter registration into the culture of their school before and/or during prom. Twenty high schools will be selected to win up to \$5,000 to throw an epic prom.

The Twitter responses have been delightful. hair. The wicker. The old school elegance. The tux and gown made of duct tape. More hair.

Paul Scheer, actor/writer/producer, showed off a corsage made

By **HEIDI STEVENS**

Chicago Tribune



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of Gummi Bears.

Actress Tracee Ellis Ross wore Armani.

Columnist/author Connie Schultz wore a sea foam dress and shiny red curls and a rather bewildered look next to her plaid tux-clad date, circa 1975.

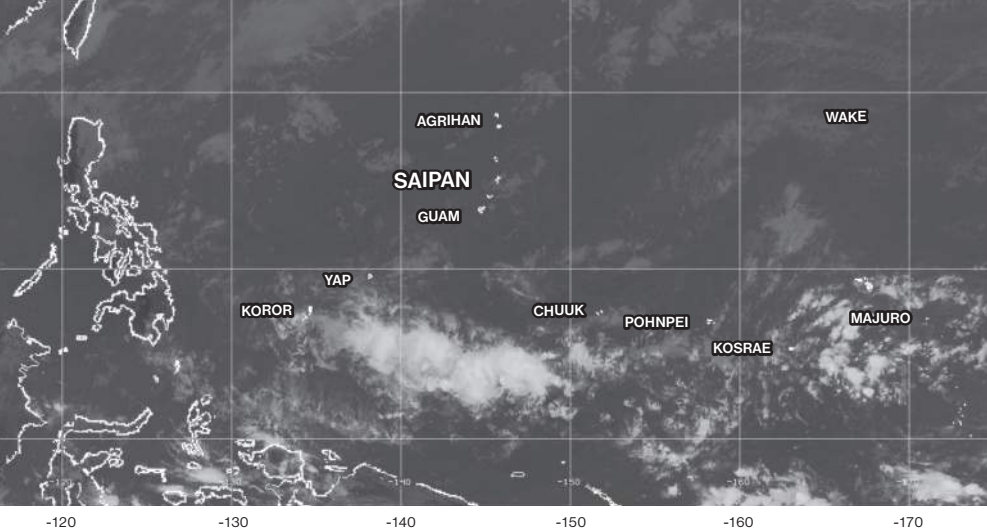
In addition to supporting and advocating for a great cause (youth voting), the #PromChallenge has been a refreshing change of pace from our tendency to fill social media with photos that are curated and filtered and edited for maximum flattery.

Many of the promgoers look splendid. Some have probably taken better photos in their lifetime. But scrolling through and stumbling upon outdated hairstyles and unflattering gowns and utterly nondescript backgrounds and the sorts of things you rarely see on, say, Instagram, is a lovely, little reminder that our whole, unedited selves are worth preserving in photos and sharing, here and there, with the world.

I hope high schoolers take Obama's challenge to heart and register to vote in droves. I also hope they take it as a cue to live and present their lives a little less filtered and perfected. Better to let the real, human, beautiful stuff show through.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Breezy. Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers		Partly cloudy with isolated showers		Partly cloudy with isolated showers	
86°	75°	86°	75°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:34 AM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

High pressure centered to the northeast of the local area will produce breezy trade winds across the Marianas today. The relatively dry weather pattern will persist across the Marianas with only isolated showers expected through the forecast. The breezy conditions with winds of 15 to 25 mph will continue through at least Wednesday. Winds will decrease by the second half of the week as the center of the high pressure increases its distance from the Marianas. A weak shear line will cause mostly cloudy skies Monday through Tuesday night. The earlier forecast had clouds increasing tonight but model and satellite imagery hint that skies will remain partly cloudy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	83° / 76°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°	
Yap	Showers	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	75° / 63°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	50° / 28°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 66°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	80° / 69°	
London	Windy	55° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	76° / 53°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	90° / 75°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	76° / 71°	
New York	Sunny	52° / 45°	
Osaka	Showers	57° / 50°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	59° / 46°	
Busan	Rain	55° / 46°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	64° / 46°	
Salem	Rain	62° / 53°	
San Francisco	Sunny	61° / 48°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	54° / 37°	
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Showers	54° / 47°	

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:23 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.19	
9:01 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.65	
2:50 PM	LOW TIDE	0.80	
7:57 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.67	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:36 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	6:24 PM
Friday	6:34 AM	6:24 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	7:01 AM	6:54 PM	-
Tuesday	7:38 AM	7:42 PM	-
Wednesday	8:14 AM	8:28 PM	-
Thursday	8:50 AM	9:14 PM	-
Friday	9:25 AM	10:00 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily				
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
				2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Opioid settlement still elusive as some lawyers criticize it

State attorneys general are finding a national settlement over the toll of opioids to be elusive, as some lawyers for state and local governments are renewing public criticism of the proposed deal with a group of companies led by the nation's largest drug distributors.

A group of top state lawyers in October announced the framework for a deal that they said would be worth about \$48 billion in cash, treatment drugs and services over time.

Some state attorneys general and lawyers for local governments criticized it at the time. They're speaking up anew as the push continues to reach a deal, with a trial over opioids scheduled to start next month in New York.

In a statement Friday, Patrick Morrissey, the attorney general in West Virginia, one of the states hit hardest by the opioid crisis, said the \$22 billion in cash being offered by distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson plus drugmaker Johnson & Johnson "is way too low."

Under terms previously announced, Teva Pharmaceuticals would also provide a free addiction treatment drug, and the other companies would distribute it.



AP
In this Nov. 1, 2018, file photo, Patrick Morrissey speaks to reporters after a debate in Morgantown, W.Va.

the drug industry said Friday that the companies have offered an additional \$1.2 billion in cash over 18 years. The lawyers said that's not enough: "Concerns remain that the total value being proposed is not adequate nor does it provide any degree of assurance that resources will reach communities."

The attorneys general from North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas who championed the settlement in October said it was better to have a national deal than see money go out piecemeal — while it lasts — through trial judgments.

Prescription and illicit painkillers have been linked to more than 430,000 deaths in the U.S. in the past two decades, and they've created financial burdens for families who have lost incomes and governments who have seen public service expenses rise as they've tried to deal with the crisis.

The offices of several attorneys general who have supported the deal have declined comment or not returned messages. (AP)

Morrissey also said that the money would not be allocated fairly under the plan as it stood because states' shares would be based too much on population and not enough on the

impact of the crisis.

"When addressing a national public health crisis, a global settlement shouldn't be about a pure money grab for the states," he said. "Mon-

ies should be targeted to those who need it most and spent on abatement."

His statement showed that at least some attorneys general remain resolute not to

accept the offer a week after 21 of them signed a letter saying they opposed the deal as offered.

Lead lawyers for more than 2,500 local governments suing

Greyhound to stop allowing immigration checks on buses

SEATTLE (AP)—Greyhound, the nation's largest bus company, said Friday it will stop allowing Border Patrol agents without a warrant to board its buses to conduct routine immigration checks.

The company's announcement came one week after The Associated Press reported on a leaked Border Patrol memo confirming that agents can't board private buses without the consent of the bus company. Greyhound had previously insisted that even though it didn't like the immigration checks, it had no choice under federal law but to allow them.

In an emailed statement, the company said it would notify the Department of Homeland Security that it does not consent to unwarranted searches on its buses or in areas of terminals that are not open to the public—such as company offices or any areas a person needs a ticket to access.

Greyhound said it would provide its drivers and bus station employees updated training regarding the new policy, and that it would place stickers on all its buses clearly stating that it does not consent to the searches.

"Our primary concern is the

safety of our customers and team members, and we are confident these changes will lead to an improved experience for all parties involved," the statement said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which includes the Border Patrol, did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Greyhound has faced pressure from the American Civil Liberties Union, immigrant rights activists and Washington state Attorney General Bob Ferguson to stop allowing sweeps on buses within 100 miles (160 kilometers) of an international border or coastline. In many cases, the buses being checked were not crossing or even approaching an international boundary.

Critics say the practice is intimidating and discriminatory and has become more common under President Donald Trump. Border Patrol arrests videotaped by other passengers have sparked criticism, and Greyhound faces a lawsuit in California alleging that it violated consumer protection laws by facilitating raids.

"We are pleased to see Greyhound clearly commu-

nicate that it does not consent to racial profiling and harassment on its buses," Andrea Flores, deputy director of policy for the ACLU's Equality Division, said in an email. "By protecting its customers and employees, Greyhound is sending a message that it prioritizes the communities it serves."

Ferguson said in an email his office will follow up with Greyhound to ensure compliance.

"Today's announcement from Greyhound confirms what should have been obvious to the company since I contacted them a year ago — it has both the power and the responsibility to stand up for its customers, who suffered for far too long from Greyhound's indifference to CBP's suspicionless bus raids and harassment," he said.

The Border Patrol has insisted that it does not profile passengers based on their appearance, but instead asks all passengers whether they are citizens or in the country legally. The agency says the bus checks are an important way to ferret out human trafficking, narcotics and illegal immigration.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Debris found in fuel tanks of 70% of inspected 737 Max jets

CHICAGO (AP)—Debris has been found in the fuel tanks of 70% of grounded Boeing 737 Max jets that have been inspected by the company, Boeing confirmed on Saturday. Inspectors found the debris in 35 out of about 50 jets that were inspected. They are among 400 built in the past year that Boeing hasn't been able to deliver to airline customers. Boeing temporarily halted production last month because the planes were grounded after crashes in Indonesia and Ethiopia that killed 346 people. Although debris hasn't been linked to those crashes, metal shavings, tools and other objects left in planes during assembly can raise the risk of electrical short-circuiting and fires. On Tuesday the company had said debris was found in "several" planes but it did not give a precise number. The debris was discovered during maintenance on parked planes, and Boeing said it immediately made corrections in its production system to prevent a recurrence. Those steps include more inspections before fuel tanks are sealed. "This is unacceptable and won't be tolerated on any Boeing aircraft when it's delivered to the customer," the company said in a statement Saturday. Boeing previously said the issue does not change the company's belief that the Federal Aviation Administration will certify the plane to fly again this summer. A Boeing spokesman cautioned against applying the 70% to all 400 jets, saying there's no way to know how many have the same problem until they're all inspected. An FAA spokesman said the agency knows that Boeing is inspecting undelivered Max planes and said the agency has increased surveillance.

Wells Fargo to pay \$3B to resolve probes into fake accounts

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Wells Fargo agreed Friday to pay \$3 billion to settle criminal and civil investigations into a long-running practice whereby company employees opened millions of unauthorized bank accounts in order to meet unrealistic sales goals. Since the fake-accounts scandal came to light in 2016, Wells has paid out billions in fines to state and federal regulators, reshuffled its board of directors and seen two CEOs and other top-level executives leave the company. Wells Fargo's reputation has never fully recovered from the sales scandal, even four years later. The \$3 billion payment includes a \$500 million civil payment to the Securities and Exchange Commission, which will distribute those funds to investors who were impacted by Wells' behavior. "Wells Fargo traded its hard-earned reputation for short-term profits" said U.S. Attorney Nick Hanna for the Central District of California. Before the scandal broke, Wells Fargo was considered to have a sterling reputation among the big banks. Bank executives referred to its branches as "stores," and once had a policy of trying to get each Wells Fargo customer to have eight financial products with the company. Behind the scenes, Wells' top management was pushing sales goals that were both aggressive and unrealistic. Bank employees were berated for not making bloated quotas, leading sometimes to mental health breakdowns, and ultimately resulting in many employees gaming Wells Fargo's sales system in order to meet the targets. For example a number of Wells Fargo customers, notably the elderly, were signed up for online banking when they did not have internet access.

Nation

City: 2nd person in days struck, killed by Mardi Gras float

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A person was struck and killed by a Mardi Gras float during a raucous Saturday night street parade in New Orleans, the second person in days killed along a parade route in this year's Carnival season, authorities said.

A city agency tasked with emergency preparedness tweeted that the person was fatally injured Saturday night as the popular Krewe of Endymion was rolling. The agency's online platform, NOLA Ready, tweetetd it had no immediate details exactly how the death occurred or the person's identity.

NOLA Ready said the remainder of Endymion's parade was scrapped Saturday evening. Reports said 13 floats had already gone ahead when the accident occurred with the 14th float in the formation. Remaining floats that followed, along with marching groups, diverted elsewhere from the accident scene on Canal Street, a wide route in this Mississippi River port city popular with parade viewers.

New Orleans police said first responders swiftly converged on the site, tweeting out calls for crowds to avoid the area.

The float, with its gaudy lights still twinkling, was cordoned off by police on horseback and on foot. All around, streets were strewn with tossed



A police officer works the scene where a man was reportedly hit and killed by a float of the Krewe of Endymion parade in the runoff to Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

bead necklaces and trinkets thrown from the floats, along with other party debris. TV stations reported a somber mood had taken hold of members of the parade group upon learning of the fatality.

The fatality came as New Orleans was still mourning the death of a 58-year-old woman who—witnesses said—was

run over by a parade float Wednesday night in the run-up to the Fat Tuesday finale.

Mayor LaToya Cantrell said Saturday night that the south Louisiana city was grieving.

"To be confronted with such tragedy a second time at the height of our Carnival celebrations seems an unimaginable burden to bear. The City and

the people of New Orleans will come together, we will grieve together, and we will persevere together," Cantrell said in a statement. "Our hearts break for those lost and for their loved ones, and our prayers and deepest sympathies are with them."

Wednesday's fatality had

occurred during the parade of the Mystic Krewe of Nyx, an all-female Carnival group. Witnesses said the woman, New Orleans native Geraldine Carmouche, had apparently tried to cross between two parts of a tandem float and tripped over a hitch connecting the sections.

Hero in Hanukkah attack declining \$20K reward over Zionism

WEST NYACK, N.Y. (AP)—An Orthodox Jewish man credited as a hero for attacking a knife-wielding man who stabbed five people during a Hanukkah celebration north of New York City is refusing to take a \$20,000 reward from established Jewish groups because he considers them Zionists, according to a rabbi who knows him.

Officials with the Jewish Federation and the Anti-Defamation League told The Journal News that they were caught off guard by Josef Gluck's decision to turn down the reward, the newspaper reported Friday.

"The reward would have been for anybody who offered information that would lead to an arrest," said Miriam Allenson, spokesperson for the Jewish Federation & Foundation of Rockland County. "That was what was on our minds."

Allenson said that there were no strings with the money and that the groups had "no idea" regarding Gluck's decision to turn away the funds.

The reward presentation event was scheduled for Feb. 6, but Gluck said he had a fam-

ily emergency, Allenson said.

Rabbi Dovid Feldman of Monsey said Gluck's decision stems from the discomfort he and some other Hasidic and ultra-Orthodox Jews have with organizations like the Jewish Federation and Anti-Defamation League. Feldman said Gluck was preparing to notify the groups in writing to explain in more detail his reasons for declining the reward.

Rabbi Feldman is a leader of Neturei Karta International. Its Orthodox Jewish members believe "the entire concept of a sovereign Jewish state is contrary to Jewish Law."

"It was his choice not to accept," Allenson said Monday. "We're letting it go. There's nothing else to say."

Gluck is credited with throwing his body in front of the machete-wielding man and using a wooden table to try and stop the Dec. 28 assault in Monsey, the newspaper reported. He then lured the attacker outside and documented the attacker's license plate number and alerted police.

Gluck has received several honors for his heroism, includ-

ing a congressional certificate presented by U.S. Democratic Rep. Nita Lowey, of Harrison, the Town of Ramapo's Freedom Award and a New York State Senate Liberty Medal.

Evan Bernstein, an Anti-Defamation League vice president, said that while the group is disappointed Gluck decided not to accept the award, it will continue to work closely with the Orthodox Jewish community in Monsey and elsewhere and offer rewards when merited to assist law enforcement in the investigation of hate crimes.

Grafton Thomas, the man accused in the stabbing, pleaded not guilty on multiple hate crime charges. Investigators found anti-Semitic writings in Thomas's journals and articles on Jews and Nazis on his cell phone, according to a complaint filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office. Thomas' defense attorney said last month that a psychiatrist found Thomas incompetent to stand trial.

The attack left five men wounded, including a 72-year-old who remains in a coma with a fractured skull and other injuries.

Judge halts plan to move virus patients to California city

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP)—A court temporarily blocked the U.S. government from sending up to 50 people infected with a new virus from China to a Southern California city for quarantine after local officials argued that the plan lacked details about how the community would be protected from the outbreak.

A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order late Friday to halt the transportation of anyone who has tested positive for the new coronavirus to Costa Mesa, a city of 110,000 in the heart of Orange County. U.S. District Judge Josephine L. Stanton scheduled a hearing on the issue Monday.

City officials quickly sought court intervention after learning from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services that U.S. officials planned to start moving patients to a state-owned facility in Costa Mesa as early as Sunday.

They said in court documents that local officials were not included in the planning

effort and wanted to know why the Fairview Developmental Center was considered a suitable quarantine site and what kind of safeguards were in place to prevent the possible transmission of the virus that has spread worldwide.

"The city has not been part of any of the process that led to the consideration of the site, and it would be unfair to not include us in this kind of significant decision that has great impact on our community," Mayor Katrina Foley told the Orange County Register.

The California Health and Human Services Agency said in a statement Saturday that it was working with federal authorities to find a place for people who were evacuated from a quarantined cruise ship in Japan and taken to Travis Air Force Base in Northern California.

Anyone who tested positive for the virus cannot stay at the base and must be sent either to the hospital or if they're not sick enough, isolated until the infection has cleared.

The Fairview center in Cos-

ta Mesa is being considered as a place to send them.

"If Fairview were chosen, the federal government would be responsible for providing health care—easing the burden on our hospitals during flu season—and for providing robust security to ensure the public safety and public health of the surrounding community," the state's statement said.

Fairview is a 109-acre campus that was once home to about 2,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It's now nearly empty as the state has moved residents into community homes and other living situations.

A state lawmaker whose district includes Costa Mesa said he feared the virus could travel through the facility's air vents.

"The coronavirus patients should be treated humanely and with the best medical care available. But the first priority must be to contain the virus and make sure it doesn't jump into the local population," Republican state Sen. John Moorlach said.

Asia

Cases rise in S Korea, China, as Iran, Italy battle outbreak

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea and China both reported a rise in new virus cases on Sunday, as the South Korean prime minister warned that the fast-spreading outbreak linked to a local church and a hospital in the country's southeast had entered a "more grave stage."

Some virus clusters have shown no direct link to travel to China. The death toll in Iran climbed to six, the highest outside China, and a dozen towns in northern Italy effectively went into lockdown as authorities tested hundreds of people who came into contact with an estimated 79 confirmed cases there. Two people have died in Italy.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that 113 of the 120 new cases were reported in the fourth-largest city of Daegu and surrounding areas. The agency said 70 of them are linked to a branch of the Shincheonji church in Daegu, which has become the biggest cluster of viral infections in



Workers wearing protective gear spray disinfectant as a precaution against the coronavirus at a local market in Busan, South Korea, Sunday, Feb. 23, 2020.

Coronavirus numbers

Total and new cases in last 24 hours

Globally

• 75,748 confirmed (548 new)

China

• 74,675 confirmed (399 new)
• 2,121 deaths (115 new)

Outside of China

• 1073 confirmed (149 new)
• 26 countries (1 new)
• 8 deaths (5 new)

Risk assesment

China: Very high
Regional level: High
Global level: High

As of Feb. 20

Source: World Health Organization
Graphic: Staff, TNS

from the figures.

The central Chinese city of Wuhan and other parts of Hubei province, where the outbreak first emerged in December, remain under lockdown. More than 80% of the country's cases are in Hubei, where the death toll has also been higher than in the rest of the nation.

China's Politburo, made up of senior officials of the ruling Communist Party, cautioned Friday that while the epidemic has been "preliminarily contained," the country has yet to see a turning point.

Officials signaled that regular activities should gradually resume after the virus prompted an extension of last month's Lunar New Year holiday. Many workplaces have opted to have their employees work remotely, and schools are conducting online classes.

Japan emperor's 60th birthday overshadowed by virus fears

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Emperor Naruhito, marking his 60th birthday, offered his sympathy to those affected by the new virus, as concerns over infections forced the traditional gathering of tens of thousands of well-wishers outside the royal palace to be canceled.

Sunday's birthday is a special one for Naruhito, his first since becoming emperor. Sixty is considered a landmark age in the Japanese zodiac calendar.

Festivities surrounding the emperor's birthday, however, have been toned down amid concerns about the virus. Plans for Naruhito to wave from the palace balcony to tens of thousands of well-wishers were among the events that were canceled.

Japan has confirmed more than 750 cases, including 634 from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, which was docked and quarantined in Yokohama, near Tokyo.

"As we face concerns about the spread of the coronavirus, I offer my sympathy to the patients and their families," Naruhito told reporters at a new conference held ahead of his birthday. "I hope that the escalation of the infections will be contained as soon as possible."

While global attention was on the cruise ship, the virus has already made its way into Japan and is gradually spreading in the country, from Okinawa in the south to Hokkaido in the north.

Experts say the infection in Japan is in the early stages of acceleration, prompting the government to prepare for a further spread of the virus.

A series of concerts, athletic events and festivals have been scrapped, with some people starting to question whether Japan can host this summer's Tokyo Olympics as planned.

Naruhito, citing his fond memories of Tokyo's first Olympics, which he saw at age 4, said he hopes to see this summer's games carried out successfully.

"For me, the (1964) Tokyo Olympics was my first encounter with the rest of the world," Naruhito said.

As a young prince, he watched the closing ceremony with his parents. He said watching athletes of all nationalities march together made a strong impression on him.

"The scene I was able to see, I believe, became a foundation of my lasting commitment and prayer for world peace," he said.

the country, which now has a total of 556 cases.

Daegu Mayor Kwon Yong-jin told reporters that 247 residents had tested positive for the virus since the city confirmed its first case on Feb. 18. That first patient is a Shincheonji church member in Daegu who has no recent record of overseas travel. Officials said she attended church services and visited other places before being diagnosed with the disease, but they still believe it's unlikely that the woman set off the

chain of infections.

Kwon said there are concerns that the number of those infected in Daegu could see yet another massive increase because authorities were launching intensive examinations of church members with virus-related symptoms. More than 9,000 worshippers were being tested.

Downtown Daegu was mostly deserted with shelves at some supermarkets and stores empty. Many restaurants, bars, real-estate offices and tour agencies have shut

down as traffic nosedived and people stayed home, ordering food and supplies online.

Mainland China reported 648 new infections for a total of 76,936. The daily death toll fell slightly to 97. In all, 2,442 people have died in the country from COVID-19.

The number of new Chinese cases has seesawed daily but remained under 1,000 for the past four days. Several changes to how the infections are counted, however, have made it difficult to draw conclusions

At Trump's India rally, Modi bets on bolstering his image

AHMEDABAD, India (AP)—A festive mood has enveloped Ahmedabad in India's northwestern state of Gujarat ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting there on Monday with President Donald Trump, whom he's promised millions of adoring fans.

The rally in Modi's home state may help displace his association with deadly anti-Muslim riots in 2002 that landed him a U.S. travel ban. It may also distract Indians, at least temporarily, from a slumping economy and on-going protests over a new citizenship law that excludes Muslims. But beyond the pageantry and symbolism of the visit, experts expect little of substance to be achieved for either side.

"For Modi, Trump's visit to India offers a useful distraction from the domestic political tumult playing out across the country," said Micheal

Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the U.S.-based Wilson Center. "I don't think the visit will have much impact on domestic politics in either country."

To welcome Trump, who last year likened Modi to Elvis Presley for his crowd-pulling power at a joint rally the two leaders held in Houston, the Gujarat government has spent almost \$14 million on ads blanketing the city that show them holding up their hands, flanked by the Indian and U.S. flags.

It also scrambled to build a wall to hide a slum along a road that Trump and first lady Melania Trump will take, caught stray dogs, planted exotic trees and is rushing to finish a cricket stadium in time for Trump's arrival. The buzz around the event has resonated in Ahmedabad, a city of 7.2 million people divided between those proud of Modi, a Gujarati tea seller's son who

went on to hold India's highest office, and those who angrily remember his term as the state's chief minister, when at least 1,000 people were killed in the anti-Muslim riots.

Trump has said Modi has promised between 6 million and 10 million people will turn up for their rally in the city, although authorities expect closer to 100,000.

A big trade deal that both sides had hoped to sign also seems increasingly unlikely.

India has tried to advance cooperation on a range of defense and strategic issues with the U.S., but Indian tariffs remain a major sticking point.

"We're not treated very well by India," Trump recently told reporters.

Still, with India's economy registering its worst slowdown in a decade, expectations of a trade deal remain high in India.

"It would be embarrassing if the two countries cannot

manage to strike a modest deal," said Joshua White, who served in former President Barack Obama's White House as senior adviser and director for South Asian affairs at the National Security Council.

The India-U.S. relationship, apart from trade tensions, has also experienced strain because of Washington's desire to use India as a geopolitical buffer with China, while at the same time some members of Congress are criticizing its actions in disputed Kashmir.

A recent letter from four senators to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo condemned the Modi government's decision to scrap the semi-autonomy and statehood of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority region, last year.

Trump has offered to mediate between India and Pakistan, both of which claim Kashmir, an offer India has repeatedly rejected.

World

Italy reports 1st virus death, cases more than quadruple

CODOGNO, Italy (AP)—Italy reported its first death from the new virus from China early Saturday and the number of people infected more than quadrupled due to a cluster of cases that prompted officials to order schools, restaurants and businesses to close.

State-run RAI television reported a 78-year-old man, one of two people in northern Veneto region to have been infected, died Friday. Italian news agencies ANSA and La Presse also reported the death, citing the Veneto regional president, Luca Zaia.

In Lombardy, at least 14 new cases were confirmed, representing the first infections in

Italy acquired through secondary contagion and bringing the country's total to 19. The cluster was located in a handful of tiny towns southeast of Milan, said Lombardy regional health chief Giulio Gallera.

"This was foreseeable even if we hoped it wouldn't have happened," Gallera said.

The first to fall ill was a 38-year-old Italian who met with someone who had returned from China on Jan. 21 without presenting any symptoms of the new virus, health authorities said. That person was being kept in isolation and appears to present antibodies to the virus.

The 38-year-old is now hos-

pitalized in critical condition. His wife and a friend of his, who was a member of his running club, also tested positive for the virus. Three patients at the hospital in Codogno where he went with flu-like symptoms on Feb. 18 also have infections, as do five nurses and doctors.

In addition, another three elderly people, who frequented the same cafe as the runner's father, also tested positive Friday, Gallera said.

Tests were under way, meanwhile, on the 38-year-old's doctor, who made a house call on him, as well as on 120 people he worked with in the research and development branch of Unilever in Casal-

puisterlengo, Gallera said.

Word of the contagion sparked fears throughout the region, particularly given the closure of the emergency room at the Codogno hospital.

"We are old and we are very concerned," said 76-year-old Codogno resident Carmelo Falcone. "I live on my own. I really don't know what to do."

Italian Health Minister Roberto Speranza said Italy is now seeing the same sort of "cluster" of cases that Germany and France have seen. He signed an ordinance with Lombardy's regional president outlining measures to contain the cluster to the 10 towns so far affected: Codog-

no, Castiglione d'Adda, Casalpusterlengo, Maleo, Fombio, Bertonico, Castelgerundo, Terranova dei Passerini, Somaglia and San Fiorano.

The towns, which have between 1,000-15,000 residents each, are located around 60 kilometers (37 miles) southeast

of Milan, Lombardy's capital and Italy's business center.

The ordinance suspends public gatherings, commercial and business activity, sport, education, and other recreational activities throughout the region, Speranza, the health minister, said.

WORLD BRIEFS

Report finds Catholic charity founder sexually abused women

PARIS (AP)—A respected Catholic figure who worked to improve conditions for the developmentally disabled for more than half a century sexually abused at least six women during most of that period, according to a report released Saturday by the France-based charity he founded. The report produced for L'Arche International said the women's descriptions provided enough evidence to show that Jean Vanier engaged in "manipulative sexual relationships" from 1970 to 2005, usually with a "psychological hold" over the alleged victims. Although he was a layman and not a priest, many Catholics hailed Vanier, who was Canadian, as a living saint for his work with the disabled. He died last year at age 90. "The alleged victims felt deprived of their free will and so the sexual activity was coerced or took place under coercive conditions," the report, commissioned by the U.K.-based GCPS Consulting group, said. It did not rule out potential other victims. None of the women was disabled, a significant point given the Catholic hierarchy has long sought to portray any sexual relationship between religious leaders and other adults as consensual unless there was clear evidence of disability.

collapsed in fighting during the conflict that killed nearly 400,000 people. Kiir declared "the official end of the war, and we can now proclaim a new dawn." Peace is "never to be shaken ever again," the president said, adding that he had forgiven Machar and asking for Machar's forgiveness, to applause. He called on their respective Dinka and Nuer ethnic groups to do the same. The world's youngest nation slid into civil war in 2013, two years after winning a long-fought independence from Sudan, as supporters of Kiir and Machar clashed.

Togo election could see president extend family's long rule

LOME, Togo (AP)—The West African nation of Togo held a presidential election Saturday that was expected to result in the incumbent winning a fourth term despite years of calls by the political opposition for new leadership. President Faure Gnassingbe became president in 2005 following the death of his father, who seized power in 1967. Under the country's current law, Gnassingbe could remain in office until 2030, if he keeps getting re-elected. The president's party predicted an all but certain victory for him Saturday. "Given the level of mobilization, we are convinced and certain that this enthusiasm will also be reflected in the polls," ruling party spokesman Gilbert Bawara said. But months of anti-government protests in 2017, with about 20 people killed, were a sign of impatience with the family's hold on power. Opposition candidates alleged there was organized fraud in the elections, saying that several opposition delegates were prevented from voting. There were also accusations that people voted with old cards. Provisional election results were expected in the coming days. The Independent National Electoral Commission has six days to announce the provisional results.



A note reading in Italian "Masks sold out" and "pharmacy is open for urgencies but shutters are closed", right, hang on the window of a pharmacy in Codogno, near Lodi, Northern Italy, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

US leads training exercises in Africa amid focus on Sahel

THIES, Senegal (AP)—Crouching in the sparse brush, maneuvering into formations through a divide, and then shooting at a target, about 10 soldiers from Burkina Faso are among a select group of African soldiers being trained to battle West Africa's fast-growing extremist threat.

They are carrying out drills as part of the U.S. military-led annual counterterrorism exercise in West Africa, which this year takes place in the shadow of possible U.S. troop cuts in Africa although extremist attacks in the region have reached a worrying new level.

A Pentagon decision on the size of the U.S. force in Africa is pending as part of a global review with the aim of better

countering Russia and China.

More than 1,500 service members from the armies of 34 African and partner training nations have assembled for the Flintlock exercises in Senegal and Mauritania, the two countries in West Africa's sprawling Sahel region that so far have not been hit by violence from extremists linked to al-Qaida or the Islamic State group.

The U.S. Africa Command, which organizes the two weeks of training, defers questions about the possible troop cuts to the Pentagon. It has said European nations should step up to help France's 5,000-strong force leading the counterterror fight in the Sahel, the region just below the

Sahara Desert. French leaders have appealed to Washington to keep U.S. troops in place.

Senegalese Foreign Minister Amadou Ba during a visit this week by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made it clear the region is under threat.

"We hope they will continue to support in security areas. We hope they will continue to support us in training and intelligence," he said of U.S. forces.

Extremists know no boundaries, Col. Magatte Ndiaye, a spokesman for Senegal's armed forces, told The Associated Press. "We must have a synergy of international action to face this threat," he said.

"We have trust in the Americans," he added. "They are aware of the situation and I'm

sure they'll take a decision that makes good sense."

Security in the Sahel region continues to deteriorate and requires international participation, said the commander of Special Operations Command Africa, U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Dagvin Anderson. "It's not just a U.S. or Western effort. It takes partnerships across the international community, and it takes close partnership within the region in order to be effective," he said.

Extremists don't respect borders, so intelligence sharing is vital, he said. That involves building trust and relationships across borders: "Ultimately, that's what leads to stability, and that stability is what we need."

Focus

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just weeks into this year's election cycle, Russia already is actively interfering in the U.S. presidential campaign in hopes of reelecting President Donald Trump, and is also trying to help the candidacy of Sen. Bernie Sanders on the Democratic side, intelligence officials have concluded.

The Russian efforts are aimed at undermining public confidence in the integrity of U.S. elections and stirring general chaos in American politics, intelligence experts say.

Lawmakers were told in a classified briefing last week that Russia is taking steps that would help Trump, according to officials familiar with the briefing. And Sanders acknowledged Friday that he was briefed last month by U.S. officials about Russian efforts to boost his candidacy.

The revelations demonstrate that the specter of foreign interference in the 2020 presidential election will almost certainly be a cloud over the campaign, and possibly even the final results if the contest is close. Democrats have consistently criticized Trump for not doing more to deter the Russians and others, and now they have fresh evidence to support their concerns.

There were some conflicting accounts about what the briefers had revealed about Russia's intentions. One intelligence official said that members were not told in the briefing that Russia was working to directly aid Trump. But advancing Sanders' candidacy could be seen as beneficial to Trump's reelection prospects.

"That Russia would put its national intelligence apparatus in an operational mode to enhance Sanders and attack (Joe) Biden and others is only natural," said Malcolm Nance, a veteran intelligence officer who wrote a book on meddling in the 2016 presidential election. "A damaged Sanders or one who would lose at a brokered convention would ... assure another Trump victory."

Sanders condemned Russia and called on President Vladimir Putin to steer clear of U.S. politics.

"I don't care, frankly, who Putin wants to be president," Sanders said. "My message to Putin is clear: Stay out of American elections, and as president I will make sure that you do."

Trump, acknowledging nothing, took a different tack



2016 again? Russia back to stirring chaos in US election

By AAMER MADHANI, DEB RIECHMANN and MARY CLARE JALONICK
ASSOCIATED PRESS

in responding to news that the House Intelligence Committee earlier this month had been briefed by U.S. intelligence experts that Russia was attempting to ensure his reelection.

On Friday he sought to minimize the new warnings by his government intelligence experts and revived old grievances in claiming any problem was just Democrats trying to undermine the legitimacy of his presidency.

The president started the day on Twitter, claiming that Democrats were pushing a "misinformation campaign" in hopes of politically damaging him.

Later, making light of the intelligence findings at a campaign rally in Las Vegas, he suggested that Russia might actually prefer Sanders in the White House.

"Wouldn't he rather have, let's say, Bernie?" Trump said. "Wouldn't he rather have Bernie, who honeymooned in Moscow?"

A senior intelligence official with knowledge about the briefing said the handful of U.S. election security briefers did not tell Intelligence Committee members in so many

words that Russia was "aiding the re-election of President Trump."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the classified briefing, said the briefers covered election threats from Russia, China, Iran, non-state actors, hackers and ransomware, but that both Democrats and Republicans homed in on Russia's activities. The official said some of the lawmakers reached conclusions that had not been made by the briefers.

The fresh warnings about Russian interference came in what has been a tumultuous stretch for the intelligence community.

A day after the Feb. 13 briefing to the House Intelligence Committee, Trump berated the acting Director of National Intelligence Joseph Maguire in a meeting at the White House. Then this week, Trump abruptly announced that Maguire would be replaced by Richard Grenell, a Trump loyalist who also will hold the job in an acting capacity.

In addition to Maguire, two other senior officials will soon leave the agency.

Andrew Hallman, one of Maguire's top deputies, an-

nounced Friday he would leave. He is expected to return to the CIA, where he has spent more than 30 years, according to an official familiar with the move, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the personnel move. Jason Klitenic, the general counsel for the national intelligence director's office, is returning to private practice. Klitenic's departure is unrelated to the sudden shakeup by Trump.

Former CIA Director John Brennan told MSNBC's "Morning Joe" on Friday that Trump's ouster of Maguire and Hallman was a "virtual decapitation of the intelligence community."

Like Trump, Sanders appeared to suggest there was a political motive to the revelations about Russian interference. Nevada Democrats are to hold their nominating contest on Saturday.

"One day before the Nevada caucus, why do you think it came out?" he said.

Trump erupted when he learned last week about the briefing to House members, according to a senior administration official familiar with the matter. It was unclear whether he was aware of the

specific information briefed, but he was agitated that contents of the briefing could be politically damaging to him, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

Trump tweeted Friday that he was considering four candidates to serve as permanent intelligence director and said he expected to make a decision within the next few weeks. He told reporters Thursday evening that Rep. Doug Collins of Georgia was among those he's considering.

But Collins, who is vying for one of Georgia's Senate seats, said Friday he's not interested in the job overseeing the nation's 17 spy agencies.

The installation of Grenell, even in a temporary role, has raised questions among critics about whether Trump is more interested in having a loyalist than someone steeped in the complicated inner workings of international intelligence.

Grenell has a background that is primarily in politics and media affairs. Most recently, he's been serving as Trump's ambassador to Germany.

The Democratic chairman of the House Homeland Se-

curity Committee, Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, dismissed Grenell as someone who, "by all accounts, rose to prominence in the Trump administration because of his personal devotion to Donald Trump and penchant for trolling the President's perceived enemies on Twitter."

From the start of his presidency three years ago, Trump has been dogged by insecurity over his loss of the popular vote in the general election and a persistent frustration that the legitimacy of his presidency is being challenged by Democrats and the media, aides and associates say. He's also aggressively played down U.S. findings that Russia interfered in the 2016 election.

In addition to those findings by the major intelligence agencies, a nearly two-year investigation led by special counsel Robert Mueller concluded there was a sophisticated, Kremlin-led operation to sow division in the U.S. and upend the 2016 election by using cyberattacks and social media as weapons.

Russia also took steps to support Sanders in the 2016 presidential campaign, according to a criminal indictment against a Russian troll farm and Mueller's lengthy report.

Mueller charged 13 Russians in a covert social media campaign that prosecutors said was aimed at dividing public opinion on hot-button social issues as well propping up Sanders and Republican candidate Donald Trump while denigrating Hillary Clinton, the eventual 2016 Democratic nominee.

Organizers of that Russian effort circulated an outline of themes for future social media content, with instructions to "use any opportunity to criticize Hillary and the rest (except Sanders and Trump—we support them)," according to the indictment.

Moscow has denied any meddling. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday that the newest allegations are "paranoid reports that, unfortunately, there will be more and more of as we get closer to the elections (in the U.S.). Of course, they have nothing to do with the truth."

AP

Health & Wellness

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Airline check in staff wear face masks to protect against the spread of the Coronavirus at the Los Angeles International Airport, California.

MARK RALSTON/APP VIA GETTY IMAGES/TNS

If face masks won't necessarily protect against coronavirus, why are we buying them?

By MARY KILPATRICK
CLEVELAND.COM

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention doesn't recommend that Americans buy face masks or respirators to protect themselves against the COVID-19 coronavirus.

But that's not stopping Americans from stocking up on face masks and N-95 respirators, which filter out 95 percent of very small particles. The CDC says suppliers and manufacturers have noted an uptick in demand.

What's driving the sales?

Fear, said Case Western Reserve University psychologist, Jane Timmons-Mitchell. Coronavirus has infected tens of thousands of people in China, and killed more than 2,000 people in the country since it began circulating in December. It's rapidly spread to more than two dozen countries across the world, mostly through travel to China.

"It's a natural response to fear and the powerless that comes with fear that people want to do something even if it's not something effective," Timmons-Mitchell said. "Just the process of coming up with a plan and doing something is something that helps people feel better."

In reality, there are many reasons why Americans don't need to invest in face masks and respirators.

The virus is not circulating in American communities so there's no point of wearing a face mask, the CDC says. And N-95 respirators only need to be used by healthcare professionals in a medical setting who are at risk for exposure—never out in the community.

Mask hoarding could also affect supply. These masks need to be in stock and available for the health

care professionals and patients who really need them.

Also, face masks are not very effective in keeping people from contracting the coronavirus in places where it's circulating.

"They don't fit very well. They're best at keeping your germs in, really, but they're not going to do a good job of keeping external germs away from you," said University of North Carolina virologist Lisa Gralinski, who studies coronaviruses. "People tend to wear them for far too long and so then they just get really gross."

The rationale behind using face masks is that they can keep in respiratory droplets containing coronavirus particles, which people spread when they cough or sneeze.

As for N-95 respirators, which filter out 95 percent of very small particles? They are believed to be effective in filtering out coronavirus. But most people don't know how to use them correctly. They must be professionally fit in order to work. There can't be any gaps between the mask and your nose, and it can't shift around.

And even when they've been deployed correctly, there's room for user error. American evacuees from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, where the disease was circulating rapidly off while docked in Japan, wore N-95 respirators on the flight back to the United States, according to the New York Times.

"I can't personally imagine being on a plane for 10 hours and keeping that mask in place the entire time. You're going to knock into it, you're going to fall asleep and hit your head on something and it will shift around," Gralinski said.

You're likely washing your hands wrong and don't even know it, experts say

By JOEL SHANNON
TNS

It's a skill you probably learned as a toddler, but most people in the U.S. still haven't mastered it: Washing your hands.

Multiple studies have shown people don't wash their hands as much as they should—and when they do, they often do it ineffectively. But many people don't see the problem.

"People think that they do wash their hands properly ... they have this concept of, 'yes, I've done it correctly,'" Mindy Brashears, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety, told USA TODAY.

That misconception is concerning to many experts who worry that widespread bad hand-washing techniques could allow diseases like the new coronavirus Covid-19 to spread more easily.

Here's what experts want you to know.

Why should I wash my hands?

Because when done correctly, hand-washing does a great job of preventing the spread of germs, helping keep you and others healthy.

That was underscored by a study published in December suggesting the



worldwide spread of disease could be significantly lowered if more people traveling through 10 key airports would just wash their hands correctly.

The majority of travelers are constantly contaminating the things they touch with the germs they carry on their hands, study co-author Christos Nicolaides, a fellow at the MIT Sloan School of Management, explained in a release.

"If we go now to any airport in the world, on average we find that 1 out of 5 people will have clean hands," Nico-

laides told USA TODAY.

Raising the number of travelers to 3-in-5 could slow the global spread of disease by almost 70%, the study suggested.

In the face of a possible coronavirus pandemic spreading primarily through travel, good hand-washing habits should be taken more seriously, experts say.

"If people would just wash their hands, it would go a long way to preventing ... the spread of illnesses," Brashears said.

Am I washing my hands correctly?

Statistically, probably not.

Brashears cited USDA studies about hand-washing during food prep involving raw meat—a time when most people know they should be washing their hands. Instead, nearly everyone did it wrong.

"I have been very stunned at the data," she said.

People were recorded while they prepped the food and researchers later reviewed the footage to see if people were effectively washing their hands.

They weren't.

People didn't wash long enough; they forgot the soap sometimes; they accidentally cross-contaminated food.

That's one of the reasons Brashears has made hand-washing education a priority: "We don't want to wait for the next catastrophic event."

How should I wash my hands?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends a four-step process:

Wet your hands with clean, running water. To save water, turn off the tap while applying soap.

For at least 20 seconds, scrub your hands. That's about the amount of time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice.

Rinse your hands well.

Dry your hands using a clean towel.

What are some common hand-washing myths?

Some hand-washing mistakes might seem obviously wrong, but people do them all the time, according to Brashears. For example, you need both soap and water to effectively wash your hands. Not just water. And not just soap.

But some other misconceptions are less obvious.

The CDC says hot water doesn't kill any more germs and can irritate your hands, so the agency recommends cold or warm water.

The agency also says there's no measurable benefit to antibacterial soaps.

And even careful hand-washers may miss this one: It's not just your palms and fingers that need to be washed—germs can hide under your nails in high concentrations, so be sure to scrub there too, the CDC says.

What about hand sanitizer—does it work?

While the CDC prefers soap and water because they are effective at reducing all germs, hand sanitizers are a good substitute if you don't have another option.

Sanitizers work best in clinical settings and are less effective against heavily soiled or greasy hands, the CDC says.

Life & Style

Weinstein jury indicates it is split on most serious counts

NEW YORK (AP)—The jury in Harvey Weinstein's rape trial indicated Friday that it is deadlocked on the most serious charges against the once powerful Hollywood mogul, but the judge told the panel it must keep working.

In a note to the judge late in the fourth day of deliberations, jurors asked if it was permissible for them to be hung on one or both counts of predatory sexual assault while reaching a unanimous verdict on the other charges.

Weinstein's lawyers said they would accept a partial verdict, but prosecutors said

no and Judge James Burke refused to allow it. He sent jurors back to deliberate for a few more minutes before letting them go home for the weekend. They'll resume Monday morning.

"It is not uncommon for a jury to have difficulty initially in reaching a unanimous verdict, and it is not uncommon for a jury to believe that they will never be able to reach a unanimous verdict," Burke said, reading instructions to the jurors. "But after further deliberations, most jurors are able to reach a unanimous verdict."

The jury posed its deadlock question in hypothetical fashion, writing: "We the jury request to understand if we can be hung on (Count) 1 and/or (Count) 3 and unanimous on the other charges? Thank you."

One reason for that phrasing could be that the verdict sheet—which lays out the charges—doesn't include instructions for what to do if they can't agree on a particular count, only how they're supposed to proceed once they've reached a verdict of guilty or not guilty.

The way the sheet is de-



Harvey Weinstein arrives at a Manhattan court as jury deliberations continue in his rape trial, Friday, Feb. 21, 2020 in New York. AP

Roman Forum find could be shrine to Rome's founder, Romulus

ROME (AP)—Italian archaeologists unveiled to the press Friday an exciting new find from the Roman Forum, which they say could be the lost shrine dedicated some 2,600 years ago to Romulus, Rome's legendary founder and first king.

Visually, the discovery first announced Tuesday is not very remarkable: Peering down in an excavated space beneath the Curia Julia, or ancient senate house, one sees something resembling a wash-tub that archaeologists say is a sarcophagus, or stone coffin. There's also a cylindrical stone block, a chunky stub of what might have been an altar.

Both items are made of tuff, carved from the Capitoline Hill that overlooks the Forum, and which is home to today's City Hall.

The recently excavated area

"represents a place, which in history and in the Roman imagination, speaks about the cult of Romulus," said archaeologist Patrizia Fortini.

Fortini says no one's hypothesizing the sarcophagus actually ever contained the bones of Romulus who, with his twin Remus, established the city near the Tiber River around 753 B.C. and founded the kingdom of Rome. It likely dates to the 6th Century BC, some 200 years after Romulus' time.

"We don't know whether Romulus physically existed" the way he was described in legends, Fortini said.

But some ancient sources claimed that Romulus was buried in the area of the find, and the sarcophagus could have served as a memorial.

Alfonsina Russo, the archaeologist in charge of the site,

noted that according to some ancient traditions Romulus was killed and chopped to pieces, or ascended into heaven.

"Therefore, this cannot be his tomb, but it is very likely, we believe, that this is a memorial site, a cenotaph," Russo added.

While excavations continue, authorities hope the public will be able to stroll underground to view the find in about two years.

Legends hold that Romulus and Remus were suckled by a she-wolf as babies, but later Romulus killed his twin brother in a dispute.

Curiously, it's the second time the sarcophagus and cylindrical stone stub have been unearthed, but it's only now that archaeologists are attributing an exciting significance to them.

Ex-US envoy to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch has book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Marie Yovanovitch, the former U.S. ambassador to Ukraine and career diplomat who during the impeachment hearings of President Donald Trump offered a chilling account of alleged threats from Trump and his allies, has a book deal.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt confirmed Friday to The Associated Press that it had acquired Yovanovitch's planned memoir, currently untitled. According to the publisher, the book will trace her long career, from Mogadishu, Somalia, to Kyiv and "finally back to Washington, D.C.—where, to her dismay, she found a political system beset by many of the same challenges she had spent her career combating overseas."

"Yovanovitch's book will deliver pointed reflections on the issues confronting America today, and thoughts on how we can shore up our

democracy," Houghton Mifflin Harcourt said in an announcement.

Financial terms were not disclosed, but two people familiar with the deal told the AP that the agreement was worth seven figures, even though the book is not expected until Spring 2021, months after this fall's election. They were not authorized to discuss negotiations and spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss financial terms. Yovanovitch was represented by the Javelin literary agency, where other clients include former FBI Director James Comey and former national security adviser John Bolton.

"Ambassador Yovanovitch has had a 30-year career of public service in many locations, with many lessons to be drawn. This is about much more than just the recent controversy," said Houghton Mifflin Senior Vice President and

Publisher Bruce Nichols, in response to a question about why her book wasn't coming out this year.

Yovanovitch told House investigators last year that Ukrainian officials had warned her in advance that Rudy Giuliani and other Trump insiders were planning to "do things, including to me" and were "looking to hurt" her. Pushed out of her job earlier in 2019 on Trump's orders, she testified that a senior Ukrainian official told her that "I really needed to watch my back."

Yovanovitch was recalled from Kyiv as Giuliani pressed Ukrainian officials to investigate baseless corruption allegations against Democrat Joe Biden and his son Hunter, who was involved with Burisma, a gas company there. Biden, the former vice president, is a contender for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

signed, jurors are supposed to first reach a unanimous verdict on the predatory sexual assault counts, which carry a maximum penalty of life in prison, before they can even consider the other three counts.

Law professor Cheryl Bader said the note suggests the jury is split on a key aspect of both predatory sexual assault counts—"Sopranos" actress Annabella Sciorra's allegations that Weinstein attacked her in the mid-1990s—and that it is in unanimous agreement on the allegations by two other women—an aspiring actress who says he raped her in March 2013 and a former film and TV production assistant, Mimi Haleyi, who says he forcibly performed oral sex on her in

March 2006.

Weinstein has maintained any sexual encounters were consensual.

The Associated Press has a policy of not publishing the names of people who allege sexual assault without their consent. It is withholding the name of the 2013 rape accuser because it isn't clear whether she wishes to be identified publicly.

"It's not unusual for the judge to have them keep deliberating and not just give them a pass at the first sign of trouble," said Bader, a former federal prosecutor who teaches at Fordham University School of Law.

The defense said speculating on the verdict at this point "would be premature

and a mistake."

In all, Weinstein, 67, is charged with five counts stemming from the allegations of Sciorra, the aspiring actress and Haleyi.

To convict Weinstein of a predatory sexual assault charge, jurors must agree on two things: that Weinstein raped or forcibly performed oral sex on Sciorra, as she alleges, and that he committed one of the other charged offenses.

The predatory sexual assault charge requires prosecutors to show that a defendant committed a prior rape or other sex crime, but doesn't have the statute of limitation constraints that would bar Sciorra's allegations from consideration on their own.

Lizzo, 'Just Mercy' win top honors at NAACP Image Awards

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Lizzo was named entertainer of the year and "Just Mercy" won best motion picture, best actor and best supporting actor Saturday at the NAACP Image Awards, as the show that recognizes entertainers of color ladled honors on the film that was snubbed by bigger shows throughout awards season.

"We are such a beautiful people, this is just a reminder of all the beautiful things that we can do," said Lizzo as she accepted the night's last and biggest award, leaping and dancing off the stage at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium as the show ended.

Host Anthony Anderson of "black-ish" opened the show, telecast on BET for the first time, with a monologue that took a shot at the lack of diversity at the Oscars and Hollywood's other ceremonies that handed out awards

earlier in the year.

"Unlike other awards shows, we actually have black nominees," Anderson said. He may well have been talking about "Just Mercy," the acclaimed film that was snubbed by the Oscars, Golden Globes and other ceremonies in the long awards season.

Michael B. Jordan won best actor in a motion picture for his role as a crusading defense attorney in the film, and Jamie Foxx won best supporting actor for the wrongly convicted man he fought for.

"This project is a lot bigger than me. It's about every person that's wrongfully convicted and sitting in a jail cell right now," Jordan said as he accepted the award.

Foxx won his fifth career image award for his role in "Just Mercy," saying, "Thank you so much, black people, African-Americans, and ev-

everything else we are."

He added, "It's always great to get it from black folks because we are so talented."

Lupita Nyong'o won best actress in a film for her role in "Us," and 15-year Marsai Martin won best supporting actress for her role in "Little" over superstar names including Jennifer Lopez, Janelle Monae and Octavia Spencer.

Martin's award went with three more she won Friday for her roles in "Little" and "black-ish" during the non-televised first night of the Image Awards.

"Thank you to all the beautiful black girls out there who inspire me every day," Martin said as she accepted the supporting actress award.

Martin's "black-ish" cast mate Tracee Ellis Ross won best actress in a TV comedy series, her ninth career Image Award.

Success of 'To All the Boys' puts stars on Hollywood's radar

NEW YORK (AP)—The 2018 release of the Netflix teen rom-com “To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before,” changed the lives of its stars, Lana Condor and Noah Centineo, by putting them on Hollywood’s radar.

“People are taking me more seriously,” said Condor, a 22-year-old Vietnamese American. “I feel like I can take up way more space, and I really, really appreciate being part of the conversation of representation. That’s something that I feel so passionate about.”

And Centineo, 23, has become a leading man. He will star as He-Man in “Masters of the Universe,” due out in 2021.

A sequel, “To All the Boys: P.S. I Still Love You,” is now playing on Netflix. In it, Condor and Centineo reprise their roles as Lara Jean and Peter, who are embarking on a real romance after falling in love in the first film.

The first movie introduced Lara Jean, a Korean American teen whose younger sister mails out a stash of hidden

love letters to former crushes that were never intended to be read. To mask her embarrassment, Lara Jean fakes a romance with one of those recipients, Peter, who is looking to make his ex-girlfriend jealous. Things grow complicated when the pair falls in love. In the sequel, another love letter recipient (Jordan Fisher) surfaces. “To All the Boys” is adapted from a young adult book trilogy by Jenny Han.

“When we made the first movie, we didn’t even know if anyone would see it,” Condor said. “Netflix hadn’t bought it yet and it was just kind of like, ‘Oh, I love the movie. I love the story, but I hope people will even see this.’”

Centineo is quick to admit that he’s learned it’s not all smooth-sailing when you become famous.

“It’s hard to not be grateful when you’ve done something that’s given you so much access to so many amazing creators and professionals,” he said.

“There are days where I think I’m a fraud and I suck

and I’m (expletive) shallow and I get anxiety attacks,” Centineo said. “But, I like to think that ... bravery is despite being afraid to do something, you still have the courage to do it anyway.”

The cast has already completed filming the third chapter in the franchise.

Condor says she was “in denial” on her last day of filming, and choked up speaking about what the Lara Jean role has meant to her.

“Lara Jean has been such a huge part of my life and it’s

only been like two years, but I’ve spent so much time with her,” said Condor, her voice cracking. “She’s given me so many opportunities that I’m so grateful for and so kind of closing that chapter was very hard for me.”

Centineo says it wasn’t sad for him to walk away because his goodbye was only to the character, not his co-stars.

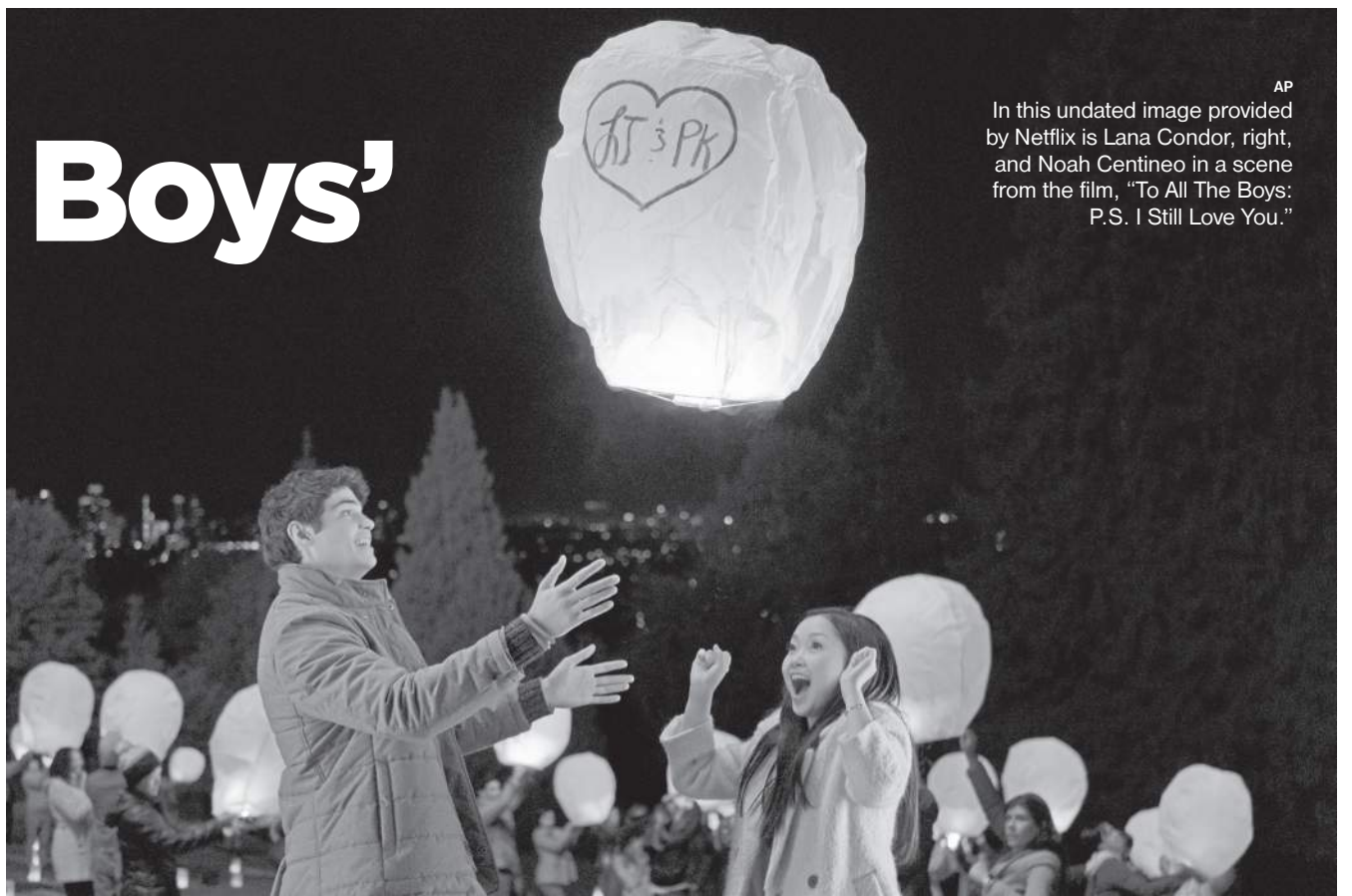
“I poured everything I could into this character and this film and this whole project—all three films—and we made a family out of it and I

think we were successful on a personal level in creating a lot of connection. So when it was over it was OK. I didn’t have any regrets. I didn’t feel like I didn’t do something. I didn’t feel like I could’ve done something better.”

Han says the experience of bringing her books to life has been so exciting that she’s now doing screenwriting and wants to introduce more diverse characters.

“People often think of stories about non-white characters as niche or that people will not be able to relate to them for whatever reason and there’s so many different ways to be an all American girl, to be a teenage girl.”

“To All the Boys” is opposite of what’s going on now, Condor said. The world is rigid and scary, but “this movie is soft and sweet and gentle and kind.”



AP
In this undated image provided by Netflix is Lana Condor, right, and Noah Centineo in a scene from the film, “To All The Boys: P.S. I Still Love You.”

Brazilian transgender dancer shatters Carnival parade taboo

SAO PAULO (AP)—When dancer Camila Prins entered Sao Paulo’s Carnival parade grounds, a costume of feathers clinging to her sinuous body, she fulfilled a dream of feminine beauty nearly three decades old.

Prins says she first realized she wanted to be a woman at a Carnival party at age 11, when, like the other boys, she was allowed to dress like a girl

as part of the burlesque festivities. Now, in the final minutes of Saturday, she became the first transgender woman to lead the drum section of a top samba school in either of the renowned Carnival parades put in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Prins, 40, was hand-picked to be “godmother” of the Colorado do Brás samba school’s drum section, an iconic role

fought over by dozens of models and TV celebrities. Her duty was to dance infectiously for 65 minutes in front of the drummers, using her legs to drive their rhythm while judges assessed the school’s parade.

“Gorgeous women wanted to be here. I’m very excited because this shows we can be anywhere. We can be godmother of the drummers, we

can be owners of a samba school,” Prins told The Associated Press before the parade. “Soon they will see many other transgender girls, who will find it easier than I did.”

Colorado do Brás, which rose to Sao Paulo’s top samba league only two years ago, made a bold decision in picking Prins for the role, despite Brazil’s Carnival being a party at which few things have never been tried.

Transgender people remain something of a taboo among Brazilians, even in Sao Paulo, the country’s most cosmopolitan city and host to the world’s largest gay pride parade. Brazil has more slayings of transvestites and transgender people than any country in the world. In 2019, 124 were killed, 21 of them in Sao Paulo state.

As godmother of the drum section, Prins teamed up with a drum queen who has a similar role, and together they worked to dazzle fans in the Sambadrome bleachers with their beauty and sex appeal. Prins said she was counting on her penetrating brown eyes, long blond hair, strong legs, open smile and imposing breasts to help win points from the judges.

Armani to hold runway show in empty theater due to new virus

MILAN (AP)—In a last-minute change, Giorgio Armani is holding his Milan Fashion Week runway show behind closed doors Sunday due to concerns raised by the coronavirus, and instead stream the event from inside the empty showroom.

The fashion house said in a statement early Sunday that “the decision was taken to safeguard the well-being of all his invited guests by not having them attend crowded spaces.”

A dozen towns in northern Italy have gone on effective lockdown after the deaths of two people infected with the new virus from China. Milan is the capital of Italy’s Lombardy region, which reported 54 confirmed cases.

Milan’s mayor on Saturday shuttered public offices. But runway shows continued apace for their fourth day, with most of the fashion crowd taking an analytical attitude to the rapidly spiking infections.

“For the moment the situation is under control,” said the president of the Italian National Fashion Chamber, Carlo Capasa. He added it was up to government officials or fashion houses them-

selves to decide if additional measures were needed.

Sunday is the fifth day of womenswear previews for next fall and winter, with eight other shows scheduled, including Dolce&Gabbana. It was not clear if the other shows would go on as scheduled. Several shows were also scheduled Monday morning, before the fashion world moves on to Paris, where shows start Monday afternoon.

Armani was forced to show behind closed doors one other time, in Paris in 1998, when officials said there were insufficient safety exits inside a huge tent being used as the venue to allow the public to attend. Only his team and one video camera was present, and a video of the show was later distributed to fashion editors. Armani later showed the entire collection in New York in protest, claiming that fashion world politics and not just safety concerns had led to the officials’ call.

On Saturday, MIDO, the world’s largest eyewear industry fair, announced that it would postpone the gathering scheduled for Feb. 29-March 2 until June due to concerns over the virus.



AP
Transgender godmother Camila Prins, representing the Colorado do Bras samba school, performs at Carnival in the Sambadrome in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020.

Unscripted 'Friends' reunion special to launch with HBO Max

LOS ANGELES (AP)—WarnerMedia's new streaming service will debut with some extra "Friends."

The company announced Friday that the entire original

"Friends" cast will reunite for an unscripted special that will be available on HBO Max when the service debuts in May.

A reunion has been long-sought by fans of the NBC se-

ries, which ended its 236-episode run in 2004. HBO Max will also carry every episode of the sitcom, which has proved enduringly popular, including with young audiences who discovered the show when it was available on Netflix.

The show made Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Matthew Perry, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer into household names and

won six Emmy Awards.

"Guess you could call this the one where they all got back together—we are reuniting with David, Jennifer, Courteney, Matt, Lisa, and Matthew for an HBO Max special that will be programmed alongside the entire 'Friends' library," said Kevin Reilly, HBO Max's chief content officer.

The special is being called a "celebration of the beloved

show" and will be shot on the same Burbank, California, soundstage where the series filmed.

The stars posted identical Instagram posts of an old publicity photo of all them with the caption, "It's happening." LeBlanc's post kept the same message but went farther back in TV history—he used a "M-A-S-H" cast photo instead.

The show's stars and its co-

creator, Marta Kauffman, have long fielded questions about a possible reunion. Rumblings of an unscripted reunion special picked up after the WarnerMedia announced it would launch its HBO Max service into the crowded streaming landscape.

It was also announced Friday that cable channel TBS will air the show's entire run weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Netflix series explores the assassination of Malcolm X

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A new Netflix series is tackling questions around the 1965 assassination of civil rights icon Malcolm X.

"Who Killed Malcolm X?" dives into questions surrounding his accused killers and allegations of a botched investigation. The show available now on the streaming service comes as Friday marked the 55th anniversary of Malcolm X's death.

The series follows activist-scholar Abdur-Rahman Muhammad, who revisits the assassination through interviews and archives. Muhammad argues in the series that at least two of the men charged with the slaying were innocent and that the real killers got away.

Three men—Muhammad Aziz, Mujahid Abdul Halim and Khalil Islam—were convicted of killing the civil rights leader and sentenced to life in prison. Aziz and Islam had long denied they were connected to any plot to kill Malcolm X, and Halim had said the two were not involved.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance's office announced earlier this month after the release of the series that it will revisit the 1965 assassination.

"(Vance) has determined that the district attorney's office will begin a prelimi-

nary review of the matter, which will inform the office regarding what further investigative steps may be undertaken," district attorney spokesman Danny Frost said in a statement.

The assassination of Malcolm X has long interested scholars and activists, who point to the feud he had with Nation of Islam leader Elijah Muhammad after publicly breaking with the group.

A daughter of Malcolm X was charged in 1995 with trying to hire a hit man to kill Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan. Malcolm X's widow, Betty Shabazz, said in a 1994 television interview that she believed Farrakhan was involved in her husband's assassination.

Farrakhan, who was recruited into the Nation of Islam by Malcolm X, wrote in the Dec. 4, 1964, issue of Muhammad Speaks, the organization's newspaper: "The die is set and Malcolm shall not escape. ... Such a man is worthy of death." Farrakhan was chief minister of the Nation of Islam's Boston mosque at the time the civil rights leader was killed.

Farrakhan acknowledged in a 2000 interview with CBS' 60 Minutes that his incendiary rhetoric played a role in the assassination.

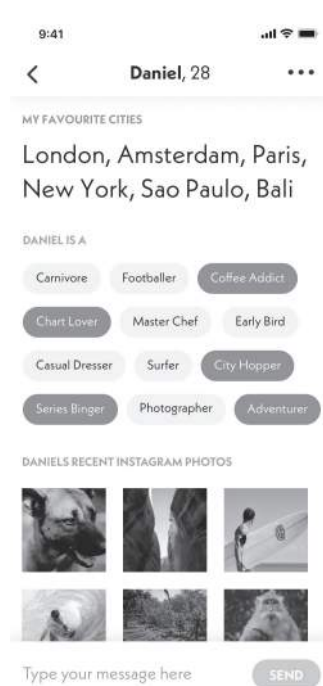
Online daters looking for more than endless swiping

LONDON (AP)—While taboos surrounding online dating are long gone, some of today's app users are sick of the endless swiping and virtual pen-paling that leads nowhere when it comes to long-term relationships, according to industry leaders who are responding with new ways to get users off their phones and out meeting people in the real world.

David Vermeulen is one such leader. His Inner Circle, launched in 2012, is more closely curating users looking for meaningful connections, and he's hosting offline events in cities around the globe to help make that happen among his more than 2 million members. He said he saw a big shift in online dating attitudes toward the end of the decade as some people have become "Tinder tired."

"They really now are looking for something more serious, something more genuine," Vermeulen said.

Justin McLeod, who launched Hinge in 2011, shares Vermeulen's view that dating apps should be focused on get-



This undated photo provide by Inner Circle shows a profile page on the dating app. The Inner Circle plans to add a "Let's Meet" button to speed up the pathway from app to real-life date.

ting people offline. Hinge's tagline is the app that's "designed to be deleted."

In 2016, Hinge intentionally removed the swipe option to encourage more interac-

tion. When they were told that people felt overwhelmed by their number of choices, they created a "most compatible" function. That, he said, "really helps people focus and get out on dates faster."

The Inner Circle plans to add a "Let's Meet" button to speed up the pathway from app to real-life date.

"If you both click it, you can within the chat select days and venues that we propose and then you can go on a date really quickly. And I mean going out for a coffee. I mean, that's the first step. But for a lot of people, it's quite a big step and we tried to make that much more easy," Vermeulen said.

His app also plans to add an automated response to anyone who just messages "Hi" as an introduction, which he said is often a dead-end to dating.

"We're gonna say, OK, this is not the best start for a conversation. You have to do better," Vermeulen said.

It's not just the newer generation of apps that are adapting to changing dating attitudes. OkCupid is one of the original dating sites, started

by two Harvard math graduates in 2004. Beginning life as a desktop website, it developed into an app with the advent of smartphones. Today, OkCupid boasts that it sets up 50,000 dates per week.

The site enforces certain restrictions to try and weed out those not interested in getting to that date. The company insists that users post more than one photo and puts them through a list of localized timely questions before a profile can be set up. So if you thought you should avoid talking politics or religion on a first date, it seems the tides are turning. Users can filter based on their views from climate change to Brexit.

"In the U.S., we may ask you, how do you feel the upcoming election? We may say, could you date someone that didn't vote?" said OkCupid's global chief marketing officer, Melissa Hobbey.

According to a Pew Research Center study last year, 3 in 10 Americans have used a dating site or app and 12 percent have married or have been in a committed relationship with someone they met through online dating.

Mom can't be optimistic about son's engagement

DEAR ABBY: My son is engaged to a young woman I'll call Carla. They are currently living with my husband and me to save money and pay off bills. They fight often. Because of this, my husband and I were not excited when they flippantly announced their engagement and also flippantly announced their wedding date recently. I just said, "That's nice" or "congratulations."

I know this is not my relationship, and they are adults, but should I explain why we cannot get excited about it? I don't dislike Carla, and I would be truly OK if they could make each other happy most of the time. But because of their arguing and unresolved issues, I do not have confidence in their relationship.

I think they may ask us for money to help with wedding expenses, and unfortunately, I feel it would be throwing money away. How awful is that? I don't want to create hard feelings if they can make this work. Advice?

UNENTHUSED MOM IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR MOM: If you are asked to chip in for the wedding expenses, consider making it conditional. Tell your son and Carla that you are deeply concerned because of the amount of fighting you see they do, and if they will agree to premarital counseling, you will be glad to help them.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are in our 60s and have two grown sons. We work full time and are financially secure.

The conundrum: We have one grandchild who will soon turn 1. I asked my daughter-in-law for gift ideas because I know she already has more than enough clothes and toys. My daughter-in-law promptly responded that they will soon be needing a new car seat, and that she'd also like a nice running stroller.

They both have good jobs. They can easily afford such items. Now I feel that if we don't produce one of these as a gift, she'll think we're cheap, but honestly, I don't consider such things to be gifts for the baby, simply items parents should be responsible for if they can afford them. I really would like to get our grandbaby something unique that will withstand the test of time. Now I wish I hadn't asked!

REGRETFUL INQUIRING GRANDMA

DEAR REGRETFUL: You may wish you hadn't asked, but you did. While you're not obligated to give the gifts your daughter-in-law asked for, in the interest of family harmony, it would be a good idea to give her one of the necessities she requested. And in the future, DON'T ASK!

DEAR ABBY: In my work, the department I'm responsible for has employees working in various locations throughout the U.S. I want to have an annual picnic at my home to show appreciation to my team. The problem is, I do not have the budget to pay for travel for employees who work in remote offices. Should I not invite these remote employees? Should I invite

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



them but inform them that their travel won't be reimbursed, or just not have the picnic at all?

NOT ENOUGH IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR NOT ENOUGH: Rather than invite workers from all over the country to a celebration you know they won't be able to attend, consider having a small gathering at your home for the locals. Send gift cards for the favorite restaurants of the employees in distant locations. It would be thoughtful and generous and would cost far less than subsidizing travel expenses.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

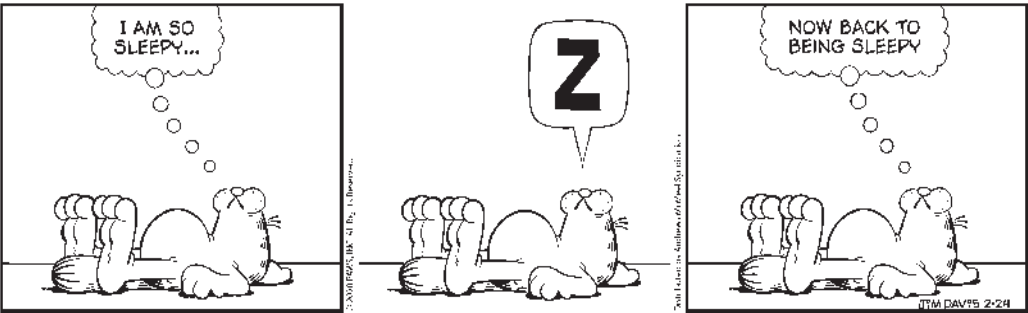
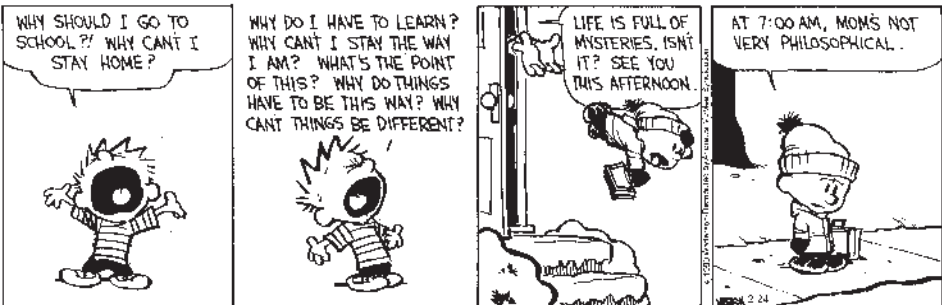
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Estate recipient

5 Under the weather

8 Bleak

12 Deco artist

13 Cow's greeting

14 Plane-related

15 Property claim

16 Where to hock stuff

18 Autobiography

20 Dawn-of-mammals epoch

21 "For — the Bell Tolls"

23 Sheep's cry

24 Try to gain favor through flattery

28 School orgs.

31 In the style of

32 Mexican money

34 Ostrich's kin

35 Take the bait

37 Occurred to

39 Zsa Zsa's sister

41 Mt. Rushmore's state

42 Cooks' garments

45 "No need to explain!"

49 Hedge-trimming, and the like

51 Rotunda top

52 Muffin choice

53 Refusals

54 Party cheese

55 Eyelid woe

56 Young fox

57 Longings

DOWN

1 Steerer's place

2 New York canal

3 Detail

4 Fame

5 Got better

6 Mauna —

7 Actor Rob

8 Car's tank cover

9 Prepared leftovers

10 Press

11 Sulk

17 San Francisco's — Hill

19 Denny's rival

22 Mini-plateaus

24 "Terrific"

25 Frazier foe

26 River or canal

27 Most boisterous

29 I love (Lat.) riser?

30 Early

33 Hose woe

36 Wimbledon champ

38 Barely managed

40 Mandela's org.

42 Priests' garments

43 Section

44 Foun-dered

46 Ripped

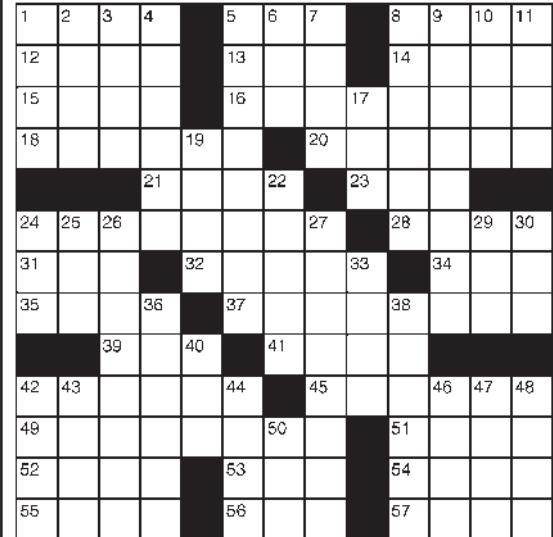
47 "Let's do it"

48 Golf props

50 King, in Cannes

Solution time: 26 mins.

Last Friday's Answer 02/24



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

O'Shea Jackson Jr., 29; Billy Zane, 54; Helen Shaver, 69; Edward James Olmos, 73.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, reflect, digest what's happened and prepare to let go of anything that is no longer a necessity. The relief you feel from uncluttering your life emotionally, mentally and physically will help you take advantage of new possibilities. A demonstrative approach to life, love and personal gain will push you in a positive and prosperous direction. Your numbers are 6, 14, 19, 22, 27, 34, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Overreacting will lead to a poor decision. Don't do anything unpredictable because you are angry or frustrated with what's happening around you. Keep the peace, bide your time and don't jeopardize your reputation or your income. Avoid indulgent behavior. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think about what you can do, and head in that direction. The help you offer will be appreciated and encourage you to update your skills and qualifications. A change of scenery will lead to unusual friendships. Live within your means. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Truth matters; if you mislead someone or you are inconsistent or uncertain, you will damage your reputation. Take your time, be direct and concentrate on self-improvement, not trying to change others. Get rid of any bad habits you've adopted. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Join in and spend time with your friends, relatives or peers. Sign up for something that inter-

ests you, and share your ideas and feelings with someone you find special. Do your research, and lay down the foundation for something you want to pursue. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Ignore what others are doing, and stay focused on what you want to achieve. A personal goal geared toward making updates will add to what you have to offer. Don't mix business with pleasure. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Keep your money and your possessions in a safe place. Don't take risks or let anyone take advantage of you. Focus on keeping a steady pace and making adjustments that will help you get ahead. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take time out for yourself. A day of pampering, spending time with someone special or curling up with a good book will ease stress. Do whatever it takes to avoid an argument. Don't overdo it; moderation will be necessary. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't hesitate; you are more than ready to take on whatever comes your way. Seize the moment, ask questions and start making the changes required to turn your plan into a reality. A financial gain is within reach. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll face confusion and uncertainty due to the information someone offers. Question whatever you are told, and find out what's real and what isn't before you commit to anything or anyone. Stick close to home, and take care of your health. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Check out the job market, and consider what excites you and what you'd like to do next. A change at home will help you make a move in a new direction. Turn your dream, passion or talent into a prosperous venture. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take action, and form alliances with someone who has always been there for you. Don't worry about the changes others are making. Focus on what's best for you, and work with those who are heading in a similar direction. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Common sense, reason and fair play will help you stay on course and reach your target. Refuse to let ego, regrets or bad habits come between you and the success you deserve. Stay on track, do your best and don't look back. ***

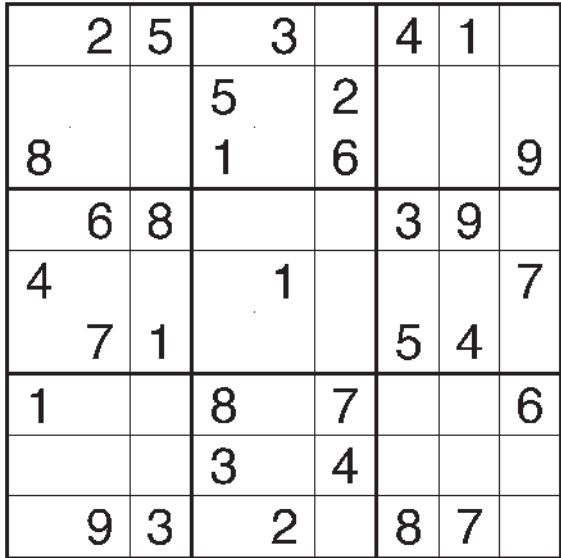
Birthday Baby: You are astute, dedicated and fair. You are strong-willed and faithful.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

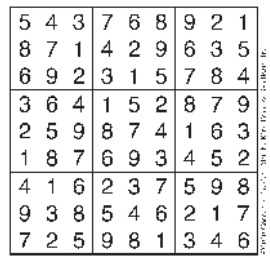


Difficulty Level ★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PENANCE AND LAND'S END Solution: 9 letters

O C E A N O I T I B I H X E K
N H N E E R T S I R U O T I C
R M O D G N I K D E T I N U O
U A G S C H A P E L N G R N R
C Z M U L F L O R A A C E E N
H E A P I F A I R R N O S N A
T Y R R F D B G T E I V O N G
R D K O F U E H A T W N E R E O
O A E C S O U T H W E S T S L
P Y T H O R P I R A T E S T E
E D H R H R O B R A H L E R V
N A O I A C O R N W A L L E A
L L U S H O R E L I N E I E R
E N S T U R K S H E A D M T T
E D E I S L E T S E K C I U Q

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Last Friday's Answer: Calendar
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WHATZIT Solution: String quartet

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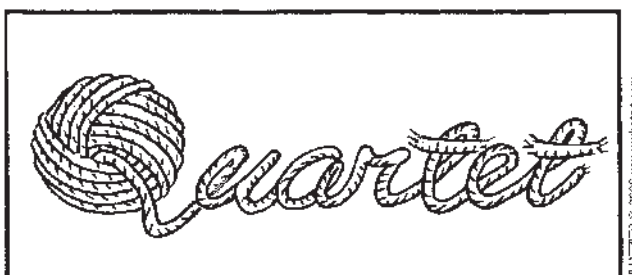
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Harden, Westbrook combine for 72, Rockets beat Jazz



SALT LAKE CITY (AP)—Teams are trying to get creative in guarding the Houston Rockets.

Russell Westbrook doesn't think the ploys are effective.

James Harden shrugged off traps to score 38 points, Westbrook faced two-time Defensive Player of the Year Rudy Gobert and still had 34 and the Rockets beat the Utah Jazz 120-110 on Saturday night.

"I don't know if it's working. I get whatever I want. I get to the basket. I shoot. I drive and kick. The pace and speed you can't scout for," Westbrook said.

Harden (13 for 23, 6 3-pointers) and Westbrook (14 for 26) were efficient all night and the Rockets rode a big third quarter to their third straight win.

"It obviously didn't work," Harden said when asked about putting the 7-foot-1 Gobert on the 6-3 Westbrook.

Eric Gordon and Ben McLemore each scored 12 off the bench for Houston.

Donovan Mitchell scored 31 and Jordan Clarkson had 22 for the Jazz, who cut the Rockets' lead to seven in the fourth quarter a couple times but could never get closer.

The Rockets made the Jazz pay when they occasionally double-teamed Harden and couldn't rotate fast enough to the perimeter shooters. After a season high-tying 25 3-pointers in their last outing against Golden State, the Rockets made 20 of 48 from beyond the arc.

"We have two guys, even more than two guys, that are able to put pressure on the rim. Teams are going to come and help and then our shooters have open shots," Harden said.

The Rockets made their move in the third quarter when they outscored the Jazz 38-19.

"When we don't make shots, it really impacts our defense. That said, I thought in the third quarter, we didn't have the same energy we needed on the defensive end. We didn't get our hands on balls, we didn't get deflections, and we fouled just once which tells you a little about our aggressiveness," Utah coach Quin Snyder said.

Westbrook capped a 14-2 run with a jumper and Houston led 100-85 entering the final period.

"It's cash money when they guard like that," Westbrook said.

The Rockets made eight of their first nine 3-point attempts to take an early eight-point lead.

Bucks 119, 76ers 98

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 31 points and 17 rebounds, Khris Middleton



scored 25 points and the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Philadelphia 76ers.

Antetokounmpo added eight assists to help Milwaukee win for the 16th time in its last 18 games to improve its NBA-best record to 48-8.

The Bucks led 56-50 at the half before Antetokounmpo scored the first seven points of the third quarter to give

Milwaukee a quick 13-point lead. The Bucks would go on to outscore the 76ers 37-23 in the period to pull away.

Joel Embiid, coming off a 39-point performance Thursday night, had 17 points and 11 rebounds but shot just 5 for 18. Furkan Korkmaz also scored 17 points for the 76ers, who fell to 9-20 on the road.

Philadelphia lost All-Star point guard Ben Simmons early in the first quarter. Simmons, who missed the 76ers' previous game with lower back tightness, headed to the locker room after making consecutive driving layups, the second with a little more than 7 minutes left in the opening quarter. He didn't return after the injured flared up.

Hawks 111, Mavericks 107

In Atlanta, John Collins had 35 points and 17 rebounds, Trae Young scored 13 of his 27 points in the fourth quarter and Hawks rallied to beat Dallas.

Collins' follow shot, credited after a goaltending call was overturned, sealed it with 8.4 seconds remaining.

Tim Hardaway Jr. scored

Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) shoots during the first half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Utah Jazz on Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, in Salt Lake City.

20 of his season high-tying 33 points in the first half and Seth Curry added 22 for Dallas.

The game was billed as a showdown between Luka Doncic and Young, two second-year All-Stars linked together since a draft-night trade in 2018, but the matchup never materialized.

Doncic was held out so he could rest his ankle, meaning that he and Young won't face each other again until next season.

Heat 124, Cavaliers 105

In Miami, the Heat were a worthy warmup act for Dwyane Wade's jersey retirement, breaking a 23-year-old franchise record for points in the first half en route to a victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers.

Miami shot 77% in the first half and then turned the stage over to Wade, whose No. 3 jersey was hoisted to the rafters at halftime.

Rookie Kendrick Nunn led Miami with 24 points. The Heat shot a season-best 57% and made 19 3-pointers.

Kings 112, Clippers 103

In Los Angeles, Kent Bazemore scored a season-high 23 points, Bogdan Bogdanovic added 20 and Sacramento beat the Clippers on the road for the second time in less than a month.

De'Aaron Fox had 20 points and eight assists for the surging Kings. They have won two straight out of the All-Star break and eight of 12 overall.

Kawhi Leonard scored 31 points in his return from his MVP performance in Chicago.

Suns 112, Bulls 104

In Chicago, DeAndre Ayton dominated with 28 points and 19 rebounds, Devin Booker had 29 points and Phoenix beat the Bulls.

Phoenix outscored Chicago by 13 in the third quarter to wipe out a 10-point halftime deficit and ended the game on a 17-4 run to come away with the win after losing seven of nine. The Bulls dropped their eighth in a row.

Nets 115, Hornets 86

In Charlotte, Timothe Lwawu-Cabarrot scored 21 points and Brooklyn bet the Hornets.

Caris LeVert added 17 points, and Garrett Temple had 15 points and 10 rebounds.

P.J. Washington had 16 points for the Hornets.

Wade expresses gratitude at jersey retirement ceremony

MIAMI (AP)—Dwyane Wade went through a long list of thank-yous as he delivered a 20-minute speech at his jersey retirement ceremony Saturday night, mentioning everyone from his business manager and the Miami Heat ball boys to Pat Riley.

"I could have gone on for an hour," Wade said following the ceremony at halftime of the Heat's 124-105 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers. "This is about me for sure, but this is about all of us at the same time—the city of Miami, teammates over the years, everyone who has sacrificed, rooted and cried. We all did this together. I didn't do this by myself."

Wade's wife helped to hoist his No. 3 jersey to the rafters, where it joined the retired jerseys of four other Heat players—Alonzo Mourning, Tim Hardaway, Shaquille O'Neal and Chris Bosh.

The ceremony was the centerpiece in a three-day



Former Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade reacts during a ceremony for his jersey retirement at halftime as the Heat host the Cleveland Cavaliers in an NBA basketball game Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, in Miami.

celebration of Wade's 16-year NBA career, which included three championship seasons with the Heat. Wade, who now lives in Los Angeles, returned to the arena for the first time since his final home game in April 2019.

"The man is hanging from the ceiling in a way he'll never be forgotten," Riley told

the crowd.

Wade reminisced about the impression he made helping Marquette beat Kentucky, Riley's alma mater, in the NCAA tournament. Months later, Riley and the Heat took Wade with the fifth overall pick in the 2003 draft, and spectators at the Miami arena that night roared their approv-

al at the choice.

"At that moment I felt your love," Wade told the crowd. "That was the first of many moments we would share together. Your appreciation and love has never left me. If there is one word, one feeling I want to convey to you tonight, it is gratitude."

Wade closed his speech by quoting his friend, the late Kobe Bryant.

"Kobe said the most important thing is to try to inspire others so they can be great in whatever they choose to do," Wade told the crowd. "I hope I've inspired all of you."

Wade played 14 1/2 of his 16 NBA seasons with the Heat. He was the 2006 NBA Finals MVP and made 13 All-Star games.

This weekend's festivities also includes tribute speeches Friday night and a showing of a documentary Sunday.

"We're celebrating greatness and a legacy that will live on forever," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Fury wins in stunning stoppage of Wilder



LAS VEGAS
(AP)—Tyson Fury reinvented himself once again, and once again he's a heavyweight champion.

The Gypsy King dropped Deontay Wilder twice Saturday night in their heavyweight title rematch, turning from boxer to puncher to win the title when Wilder's corner threw in the towel as he was taking a beating in the seventh round.

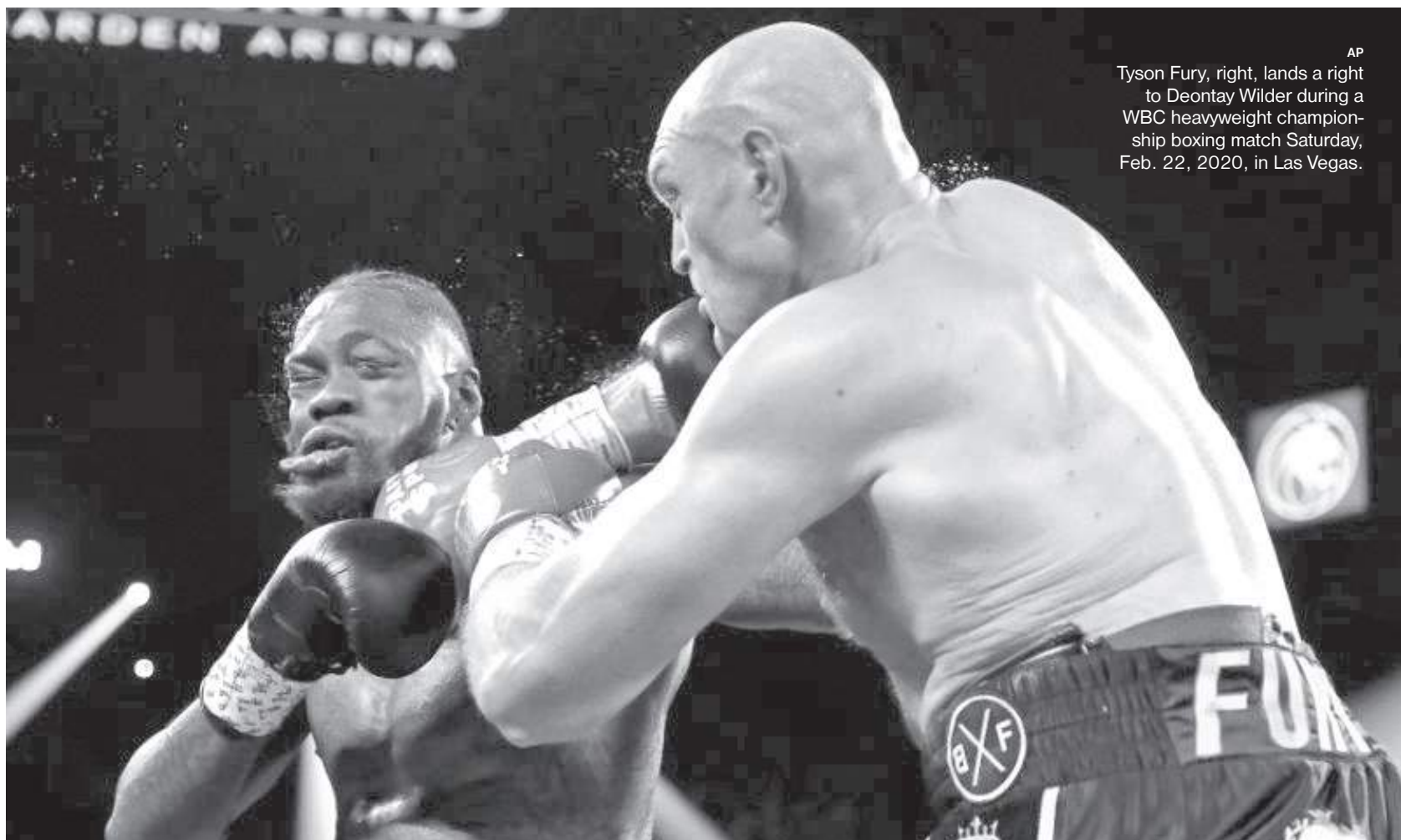
It was a stunning turnaround for a fighter who came back from drug and alcohol abuse to win the title for a second time, made even more surprising because Wilder was the devastating puncher in their first fight 14 months ago.

"The king has returned to his throne," proclaimed Fury, who fought to a draw with Wilder in their first fight.

Fury dropped Wilder in the third round with a right hand that seemed to take the legs out of the champion. He put him down again in the fifth round, this time with a left hand to the body.

He also bloodied Wilder's ear, and seemed to lick the blood off his shoulder in a bizarre scene in the sixth round. If that wasn't enough fun for the night, he tried to lead the crowd in a singalong of "American Pie" after the fight. Fury knew all the words.

The end came at 1:39 of the seventh round when referee Kenny Bayless stopped the fight after Wilder's corner threw in the towel as he was getting pummeled in a neutral corner. Blood was pouring out of Wilder's ear for several rounds before Fury went in for



AP
Tyson Fury, right, lands a right to Deontay Wilder during a WBC heavyweight championship boxing match Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, in Las Vegas.

the shoulder lick.

It was the first loss for Wilder in 44 fights, and it came in the 11th defense of the title he won in 2015.

"Even the greatest have lost and come back," Wilder said. "I make no excuses. This is what big-time boxing is all about."

The two fighters are under contract for a third fight, though Wilder could opt out of it as the loser. If the fight happens, Fury would get the better part of a 60-40 purse bid.

Fury stalked Wilder almost from the opening bell, using his jab to control the early rounds. He won every round on the

scorecard of the Associated Press and was in total command of the fight when it ended.

Ringside punch stats demonstrated Fury's dominance, showing him out landing Wilder 82-34 in total punches. Fury landed 58 power punches in less than seven rounds of the rematch after landing just 38 in the first fight Wilder landed just 34 punches all fight and just 18 power shots.

Wilder briefly protested the stoppage, as a pro-Fury crowd of 15,816 at the MGM Grand hotel roared in delight. The highly anticipated fight drew a heavyweight record \$16.9 million gate

and promoters believe it sold well on pay-per-view, too.

"I wish my corner would have let me go out on my shield," Wilder said. "He did what he did. There's no excuses."

Wilder, who at 6-foot-7 and 231 pounds was the smaller man in the ring to the 6-foot-9 British giant, was backpedaling the entire fight, trying to catch Fury coming in with a right hand. But he was never able to throw it effectively, and unable to deal with Fury's jab either.

Two judges had Fury winning every round, while the third gave Wilder one round. Fury had a point deducted for

grabbing and pushing in the fifth round.

"He manned up and he really did show the heart of a champion," Fury said. "He's a warrior, he will be back, he will be a champion again. But the king has returned."

Fury had bulked up to 273 pounds for the rematch, vowing to change tactics and become the big puncher. He was true to his word, dominating early with a jab that stopped Wilder in his tracks and then landing combinations to the head and body.

Fury (30-0-1, 21 KO) came into the ring carried aloft on a throne with a crown on his

head. Then he showed he was really the Gypsy King as he made it an easy night against a fighter who had gone 12 years without losing as a pro.

For Wilder it was a stunning end to an unbeaten mark that had seen him knock out 41 of his previous 43 opponents. But his devastating right hand was never a factor, and Fury seemed to walk through it. That was unlike the first fight 14 months ago when Wilder knocked Fury down twice on his way to a draw.

Both fighters were guaranteed \$5 million in the rematch but could make \$40 million apiece.



NEW YORK
(AP)—FL owners' eagerness to approve negotiated terms of a new labor agreement apparently is not matched by the players.

They want more talks.

Union player representatives decided Friday to not vote on the new labor deal approved by team owners Thursday. The NFL Players Association will meet with league negotiators at the scouting combine in Indianapolis on Tuesday.

Earlier Friday, the union's executive committee voted 6-5 to recommend rejecting the terms of the new collective bargaining agreement. But the player reps and the full union membership could vote next week.

Objections to an expanded regular season are considered the main stumbling block to player approval.

"Today the NFLPA Board of Players Representatives did not take a vote on the principal terms of a proposed new col-

Player reps not voting on NFL labor deal

lective bargaining agreement," the union said in a statement. "Our player leadership looks forward to meeting with NFL management again next week before the board takes a vote shortly after."

If the NFLPA does not approve the terms, the current CBA that expires in March 2021 would remain in effect and further talks would be required.

The owners' proposal features a 17-game season, shorter preseason, larger rosters and limits on the number of international games.

The union's executive committee includes NFLPA President Eric Winston, former Giants linebacker Mark Herzlich and former Bills linebacker Lorenzo Alexander, all retired; Giants long snapper Zak DeOssie; 49ers cornerback Richard Sherman; Patriots tight end Benjamin Watson; Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri; Char-

gers tackle Russell Okung; Saints punter Thomas Morstead; Buccaneers linebacker Sam Acho; and Giants safety Mike Thomas.

Several people familiar with the terms say they feature increases in minimum salaries, changes in practice squad make-up and eligibility, and reduced offseason and preseason requirements as pivotal parts of the deal.

Those people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because specific details of the provisions in the agreement that would run through 2030 are not being made public.

An expansion of the playoffs to seven teams in each conference, with only the top seed in the AFC and NFC getting a wild-card bye, can be instituted by the league without any negotiations—as long as the postseason remains in a four-week format. Several

owners are strongly in favor of doing so regardless of the CBA status.

One of the wild-card weekend games might wind up as a Monday night contest.

The 17-game schedule actually is a compromise offer for some owners who wanted 18 games. Adding the one regular-season match would seem to indicate each of those games would be at a neutral site.

But the league has promised the union to cap the number of international games and that there would not be a full week of such contests. More likely is a continued mix of games in England (and other European sites) and Mexico. Most team schedules will have nine home games and eight road games in alternating years.

The preseason would be reduced from four games to three, not counting the Hall of Fame game that starts the ex-

hibition schedule.

Training camp padded practices would be reduced from a total of 28 to 16. A five-day acclimation period would precede summer practices. There would be more days off during camp—eight instead of five—and a limit on joint practices.

There would be no extra bye week in the regular season, something that had been discussed. However, teams would basically have two weeks to prepare for the season opener with the elimination of the fourth preseason game.

Rosters would expand from 53 to 55, with 48 players able to dress for games rather than the current 46. Practice squads would go from 10 players to 12 and eventually to 14, probably by 2022. There would be more flexibility for protecting practice squaders from becoming free agents.

Suspensions for a positive

test for marijuana likely would end, except for cases of tampering with a test. But doctors appointed by the league and union would have the ability to recommend players sit if they are not under treatment or are at risk if they suit up.

A major point of contention when the current agreement was reached in 2011 following a 4 1/2 month lockout was Commissioner Roger Goodell's role in discipline. Should these terms be accepted by the players, a neutral, jointly appointed hearing officer would make findings on off-field issues and whether the actions violated the league's personal conduct policy. Those findings would be binding, but a player could appeal—with Goodell making the final decision.

The terms contain substantial changes in a variety of fines for violating club rules to provide a scaled pricing discipline system. A maximum fine could not be rendered until a third violation.

Fans heckling Astros opener get signs stolen



WEST PALM BEACH, Fla.
(AP)—Fans

hoping to heckle the sign-stealing Houston Astros at their spring opener were met with quite the coincidence.

They got their signs stolen.

In the Astros' first spring training game since their sign-stealing scandal rocked baseball, some fans brought signs jeering Houston, and ballpark personnel confiscated them before the exhibition opener against the World Series champion Washington Nationals on Saturday night.

In a Series rematch, the Nats got hearty cheers, while everyone in an Astros jersey—including the mascot, Orbit—was booed. Houston did not use any players implicated in MLB's probe.

Two men in Nationals gear sitting behind the Astros dugout briefly held up crudely drawn signs just before first pitch. One read: "You see my hate?" in large block letters. And another said: "Houston" with an asterisk below it, suggesting the Astros' 2017 World Series title should be permanently blemished because of the cheating.

The men didn't get to show off their signs for long. A woman who worked for the ballpark quickly approached to take the signs. They didn't argue with the woman, but they did look confused as she walked away with them folded in her arms.

The Astros and Nationals share a spring training complex. Houston was designated the home team Saturday.

Matthew Silliman, who held one of the signs, said he didn't know they were forbidden. He drove to the game from Tampa Bay and said he's been waiting to let the Astros



Fans jeer at the Houston Astros before spring training baseball game against the Washington Nationals Saturday, Feb. 22, 2020, in West Palm Beach, Fla.

AP

know what he thinks of them.

"I'm a big Nats fan and it's wrong," he said. "They're cheaters."

Commissioner Rob Manfred concluded last month the Astros violated rules by using a television camera to steal catchers' signs during their run to the 2017 World Series title and again in the 2018 season. Manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for one season and then fired by the team, but players were not disciplined.

Fans booed loudly every time the public address announcer said "Astros," and fans behind Houston's dugout heckled Jose Altuve, Carlos Correa and Lance McCullers Jr. as they stood on the dugout

steps before the game. A few fans banged on their metal seats, attempting to mimic the banging on a trash can the Astros used to relay stolen signs to hitters.

One fan in a Nationals jersey yelled: "Hey Altuve, are you scared to play tonight?" Others screamed "you suck!" and "cheaters!"

First-year Houston manager Dusty Baker said he didn't think the reception was "too bad" and said his team will have to get used to it.

"You'll probably get the same reception most places you go, especially the first go-round," he said. "So, you've just got to put your big-boy pants on and then just try to shut it out and just play baseball and real-

ize this too shall pass."

Severino frustrated by being shut down again

Meanwhile, New York Yankees right-hander Luis Severino says it is "definitely frustrating" to be shut down in spring training for the second consecutive year.

Severino has right forearm soreness near the elbow, which has been an off and on issue since October.

"It's more inside, close to the bone, so I would say more like where the muscle attaches to the bone," Severino said Friday. "It's a weird spot. I've never experienced pain up there."

Severino will go to New York on Monday for tests. He was examined Friday by team physi-

cian Dr. Christopher Ahmad.

"We took a couple of issues off the board, I would say shoulder or stuff like muscles, but we will see on Monday what is the real issue, or the days after that" Severino said. "We're looking to get all the answers that we can get."

Severino experienced renewed discomfort at home Wednesday night.

"I went to, in the offseason, New York twice to do the MRI and they didn't find anything so right now we're not sure what is causing that," Severino said. "I was watching TV, I started to stand up and I was feeling something that wasn't right."

Severino, who turned 26 on Thursday, was sidelined until the final weeks of the regular

season last year.

Severino also has a loose body in his right elbow that manager Aaron Boone said has not been an issue.

"I don't think that's the issue because if it was the issue, I couldn't throw my fastball or my slider," Severino said.

Severino had been throwing bullpen sessions during spring training without using a changeup. He resumed throwing his changeup on flat ground in recent days.

New York already expects to be without left-hander James Paxton for the first two months of the season following back surgery on Feb. 5.

It's not clear whether Severino will be ready for the March 26 opener at Baltimore.

CALIFORNIA (AP)—Players on the U.S. women's national team are seeking more than \$66 million in damages as part of their gender discrimination lawsuit against the U.S. Soccer Federation.

The damages were included in slew of papers filed Thursday night in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles ahead of a trial scheduled to start May 5.

Among the documents filed were the separate collective bargaining agreements of the U.S. men's and women's teams, which had not previously been made public.

Players on the women's national team sued the federation last March alleging institutionalized gender discrimination that includes inequitable compensation between the men's and women's teams.

American women seek more than \$66M in damages

Each side in the class-action lawsuit asked for a summary judgment in their favor. The estimate of damages, including interest, was provided by Finnie Bevin Cook, an economist from Deiter Consulting Group, which was retained by the suing players.

The collective bargaining agreements showed a disparity in bonuses but also highlighted the different pay structures between the two teams.

"Women's national team players are paid differently because they specifically asked for and negotiated a completely different contract than the men's national team, despite being offered, and rejecting, a similar pay-to-play agreement during the past negotiations," U.S. Soccer said in a statement. "Their

preference was a contract that provides significant additional benefits that the men's national team does not have, including guaranteed annual salaries, medical and dental insurance, paid child-care assistance, paid pregnancy and parental leave, severance benefits, salary continuation during periods of injury, access to a retirement plan, multiple bonuses and more."

Molly Levinson, spokeswoman for the plaintiffs, disputed the federation's assertions. "In the most recent CBA negotiation, USSF repeatedly said that equal pay was not an option regardless of pay structure," Levinson said in a statement. "USSF proposed a 'pay to play structure' with less pay across the board. In

every instance for a friendly or competitive match, the women players were offered less pay than their male counterparts. This is the very definition of gender discrimination, and of course the players rejected it."

A U.S. man who was on the roster for all 16 qualifiers during the failed effort to reach the 2018 World Cup earned \$179,375 in payments from the U.S. Soccer Federation.

An American woman received \$52,500 for being on the roster for the five World Cup qualifiers last year plus \$147,500 for her time at the World Cup, including a \$37,500 roster bonus and \$110,000 for winning the title in France.

The USSF keeps 16-21

women's players under contract in each year of the current labor deal, which runs through 2021, and pays each a \$100,000 salary. The federation also pays a minimum 22 players assigned to a club in the National Women's Soccer League, with each receiving \$70,000 to \$75,000 this year.

Women receive 75% of salary on maternity leave for up to one year, and a player has the longer of three months or two training camps to return to full fitness. A player can receive 75% of salary for up to three months when adopting a child and a \$50 daily stipend for child care during training and play. The USSF also pays for health, dental and vision insurance for the women.

When the men last qualified for the World Cup in

2014, their player pool got a \$2 million payment, and each player earned \$55,000 for making the roster and \$5,500 per match. The player pool earned \$175,000 per point for the group phase, a total of \$700,000, plus \$3.6 million for reaching the round of 16.

The USSF in its filing pointed out it received \$9 million from FIFA for the men reaching the second round of the 2014 World Cup, but \$2 million for the women winning in 2015 and \$4 million for their victory in 2019.

There is parity in per diems: the women get \$62.50 daily while in the U.S. and \$75 internationally, the same as the men received under terms of their expired deal that covered 2015-18. And men and women both receive \$1.50 per paid attendance for home matches controlled by the USSF.



Federer out of French Open after knee surgery

Roger Federer will miss the French Open after undergoing arthroscopic surgery on his right knee Wednesday.

Federer, 38, made the announcement on social media early Thursday. He made it to the semifinals of the Aus-

tralian Open at the end of January.

"My right knee has been bothering me for a little while. I hoped it would go away, but after an examination, and discussion with my team, I decided to have arthroscopic surgery in

Switzerland yesterday. After the procedure, the doctors confirmed that it was the right thing to have done and are very confident of a full recovery. As a result, I will unfortunately have to miss Dubai, Indian Wells, Bogota, Miami and the French Open. I am grateful for everyone's support. I can't wait to be back playing again soon, see you on the grass!" Federer said.

Federer, ranked third in the world, has one championship at Roland Garros (in 2009). That tournament is May 24-June 7. The former No. 1 made it to the semifinal in 2019, his first year back at the French Open since 2015.

He plans to miss tournaments in Dubai—where he's the reigning champion—Indian Wells and Miami as well and will be back for Wimbledon, where he has won eight of his record 20 Grand Slam titles. The 2020 Tokyo Olympics follow in July and August.



Switzerland's Roger Federer makes a return to Serbia's Novak Djokovic during their semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 30, 2020.

Federer had surgery on his left knee in 2016 to repair a torn meniscus. He suffered the injury after a semifinal run in the Australian Open and missed the Rio Olympics and U.S. Open. That he's had surgeries now on both knees, and is closing in on 40, has worried fans rooting for him to extend his record. Rafael Nadal is one away from tying it and has back-to-back victories at the French Open.

Meanwhile, top seed Simona Halep came back from a set down for the third time in the tournament to beat Kazakhstan's rising star Elena Rybakina 3-6 6-3 7-6(5) to win the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships for the second time on Saturday.

In a battle that lasted nearly two-and-a-half hours, the match came down to a tie-break where two shots that went agonizingly wide for Rybakina eventually decided the title in front of a noisy crowd that constantly chanted Halep's name.

BLUE

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after drilling back-to-back triples, while Ken Viray added a layup, and Alvin Almarino nailed 4 straight points, including the undergoal stab that moved his team within 2 down to the last 21 seconds of the match.

After Almarino's shot, Blue Haus sued for time and when the game resumed, Jack Aranda found Pangelinan open at the left baseline for the short jumper that gave their team more breathing room, 78-74.

Pacific Hardware, with the clock ticking down, tried to counter quickly, but Viray lost the ball, as he attacked his defender. Pangelinan then picked up the loose ball and found Aranda sprinting to their frontcourt. Aranda, however, muffed the open layup, but fortunately, Bart Demapan was there for the trailer and the putback that iced it for Blue Haus, 80-74, just 6 seconds left in the game.

Randy Mungcal managed to beat the clock with his inside basket to peg the final score.

Aranda top-scored for Blue Haus with his 22 points, while Pangelinan also finished in twin digits with his 17. Gerald Flores matched Pangelinan's output, while Demapan chipped in 11. Mintac paced Pacific Hardware with his 27 markers.

6JMS/Sea Bridges 77, Ming Yang 56

In the curtain-raiser, 6JMS/Sea

Bridges eased past Ming Yang.

6JMS/Sea Bridges banked on a strong start to notch the double-digit winning margin. The eventual winning team established a 23-10 lead in the first quarter behind the 12 points of Freddie Pelisamen and never looked back after that.

Pelisamen had a game-high 26 points, while Ren Gaviola and Rocyl Ritual added 15 and 13 markers, respectively.

Meanwhile, this year's One Pacific caging will feature 16 teams divided into two pools.

Two more matches were played last night, while the rest of the scheduled has yet to be finalized. The succeeding games will take place at the Civic Center Court in Susupe.

First Game

6JMS/Sea Bridges 77—Pelisamen 26, Gaviola 15, Ritual 13, Mendiola 11, Diaz 4, Lieto 4, Mangali 2, Lavadie 2.

Ming Yang 56—Giron 11, Monteverde 11, Alano 10, Pineda 6, Galuu 8, Divinagracia 6, Tenepere 4, Broncano 3, Jose 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-10, 41-15, 64-36, 77-56.

Second Game

Blue Haus 80—Aranda 22, Pangelinan 17, Flores 14, Demapan 11, Talania 8, Estores 2, Bernardo 2.

Pacific Hardware 76—Mintac 27, Viray 17, Manalo 17, Almarino 7, Mungcal 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 33-30, 53-49, 80-76.

MCS

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Gymnasium.

The Knights were first handed an easy victory (forfeiture) against Da'Ok Academy and then downed Saipan Southern High School, 39-20, to improve to a 7-0 record and tie Kagman High School Junior Varsity for first place in the team standings. Saipan Southern absorbed its first loss in seven games and dropped to second place in the rankings in the elimination round.

SIS also played two games

last Thursday, topping MHS Varsity in its first assignment, 29-19, before edging Agape Christian School in the second one, 26-17. The Geckos now hold a 5-2 slate for a share of fourth place with Agape.

In other results, KHS Varsity earned its third win in six games following a 40-21 triumph over the winless MCS Junior Varsity.

MHS 3 took win No. 2 after prevailing over KHS 3, 24-16.

Meanwhile, elimination round games will resume tomorrow with three matches each set on the north and south courts.

On the north court, MCS 2 will attempt to enter the win column when it meets KHS 3 in the first game. In the second tiff, MCS Varsity will try to keep its clean slate when it duels MHS V, while KHS will return to the same court to challenge Da'Ok Academy.

In the first game on the south court, Da'Ok will face MHS 3, while in the second match, MCS 2 will square off against the unbeaten KHS JV. In the last match, it will be KHS V versus MHS JV.

Only the Top 10 out of the

12 squads after the elimination round will advance and join Rota and Tinian teams to the playoffs.

STANDINGS

TEAMS	W	L
KHS JV	7	0
MCS Varsity	7	0
SSHS	6	1
Agape	5	2
SIS	5	2
MHS Varsity	3	3
KHS Varsity	3	3
MHS 3	2	5
KHS 3	0	3
Da'Ok	0	4
MCS 2	0	4
MHS JV	0	7

NMSA

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more than 2,000 athletes, officials, and guests.

"This is an event that you can be proud of and support from everyone is needed so that the CNMI can host one of the best Games in our region," Lakhan said.

The PCG head along with its chief executive officer Andrew Minogue were on Saipan last week not only to attend the NMSA event, but also meet with different local sports federations and discuss developments in their preparations for the hosting of the Mini Games.

Initially, six sports are scheduled to be contested in next year's competition: athletics, badminton, beach volleyball, triathlon, golf, and baseball. The number was originally 12, but was trimmed down due to budgetary constraints and facilities issues, with the allotment for the Mini Games



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

From left, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Jerry Tan, board member John Hirsh, vice president Ramon Tebuteb, secretary Valerie Hofschneider, and board member Nick Gross are introduced at the NMSA Annual Banquet last Wednesday night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

also cut to \$3 million from \$8 million. However, there are indications that a couple more sports may be added to the Games with NMSA and

the government working on securing grants to improve competition venues.

The final calendar of events for the 2021 Pacific Mini will

be decided early next year, while PGC officials will have more visits to Saipan this year to get updates about the hosts' preparation for the event.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Blue Haus' Ed Pangelinan, left, pulls up for one of the baskets he hit in the fourth quarter against Pacific Hardware during their game in the opening of the One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020 last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Harden,
Westbrook
combine for 72,
Rockets beat Jazz

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Fans heckling
Astros opener
get signs
stolen

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

More benefits from 2021 Mini Games hosting

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI will benefit from hosting the 2021 Pacific Mini Games even after the quadrennial competition has finished.

Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan, who was among the guests at the Northern Marianas Sports Association Awards Banquet last week, said the Commonwealth will have tools to host even bigger events after holding the Mini Games on Saipan.

"Hosting the Mini Games will give your people the skills to organize events. The Mini Games will provide opportunities for human resources development, as they will be trained to handle the competition. There will also facilities, which will undergo improvement and will be used in future competitions and other community events," Lakhan said.

"The Mini Games will leave a legacy on Saipan," he added.

With this in mind, the Pacific Games Council called on the private sector, various government agencies, athletes

and officials, and all the members of the community to rally behind the CNMI's hosting of the Mini Games next year. The regional competition will come to Saipan for the first time and is expected to draw

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacific Games Council president Vidya Lakhan talks about the benefits of hosting the 2021 Pacific Mini Games on Saipan in his speech during the Northern Marianas Sports Association Annual Banquet last Wednesday night at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.



Blue Haus survives opener



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Blue Haus' Gerald Flores, right, takes off for a layup against Pacific Hardware's Buboy Sampang during the fourth quarter of their game in the opening of the One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020 last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Blue Haus withstood Pacific Hardware's late comeback to pull off an 80-76 victory in its opening game in the One Pacific Promotional Basketball League 2020 last night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Ed Pangelinan drilled a rally-halting jumper under the one minute mark and picked up a loose ball that paved the



way for the insurance basket for Blue Haus.

Before Pangelinan's basket, Blue Haus saw its once 9-point lead (71-62), sliced to a deuce, 76-74, as Pacific Hardware launched an 12-5 run beginning at the last two minutes and change of the game. Mac Mintac anchored Pacific Hardware's last push

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MCS Varsity still perfect; Twin wins for SIS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School Varsity notched a pair of wins, while



Saipan International School also went 2-0 in last Thursday's games in the 2019-2020 Public School Sys-

tem Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League at the Marianas High School

See MCS on Page 27



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School players and coaches pose for a photo after winning against Agape Christian School last Thursday in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.